

Fall 2021

Illinois State Library

TBBS

300 S. Second St.

Springfield, IL 62701-1796

**NewsLink**

Jesse White
Secretary of State
& State Librarian

In this issue:

Students, parents and
teachers

Virtual tech and culture
workshops

Spectrum Access

2021 Audie Awards

NLS BARD support team

Spread the word

TBBS NewsLink is available in braille and large print, on NFB-NEWSLINE, via email by contacting the State Library or on the Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) website at www.ilbph.org (click TBBS NewsLink).

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.
September 2021 — 9.5M — ISL TBBS 12.37

Students, parents and teachers

Juvenile and student accounts need to be reviewed annually by a parent or teacher. Reading/grade levels and subject interests may need to be updated to ensure that the young patron receives age-appropriate materials. Please call 800-426-0709 to speak with a Reader Advisor about updating an account.

Virtual tech and culture workshops

The Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library in New York has invited TBBS patrons to join its vibrant community for free, interactive workshops that cover tech topics for beginners and seasoned users, book discussions, a braille study group and more. Recent workshops have included DIY tactile drawing sessions, a virtual accessible fitness fair, an introduction to the JAWS screen reader, using Gmail with screen readers, using add-ons with NVDA, accessible gaming for iOS and a Blind Entrepreneurship Showcase. For all group workshops, you may join using Zoom via computer, smartphone or tablet, or you can dial in by phone. To receive a reminder about each upcoming workshop or find out about additional pop-up offerings, email heiskelltech+subscribe@googlegroups.com or contact the tech team at 212-206-5400, ext. 3 to join the announcement list.

Spectrum Access

Spectrum Access, a free app from Charter Communications, enables customers to play audio

descriptions directly from their phone or tablet. The app uses the device's microphone to identify where the user is in a movie or TV show and then plays the corresponding file in parallel. It is currently compatible with more than 400 movies and shows. The audio description app is now available for iOS devices via the Apple App Store and for Android devices via the Google Play store. For more information, visit <https://www.spectrum.com/apps/spectrum-access-app>.

2021 Audie Awards

The Audie Awards – also known as “the Oscars of the audiobook industry” – are presented annually to the best titles in commercial audio publishing in 25 categories. For a compelling listening experience, try one of the 2021 winners available from NLS:

Audiobook of the Year: **Piranesi** by Susanna Clarke, DB 100700

Author Narrated: **More Myself** by Alicia Keys, DB 98906

Autobiography/Memoir & Best Male Narrator: **The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley** by Malcolm X and Alex Haley, DB 101533

Faith-Based Fiction & Nonfiction: **Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire** by Jen Hatmaker, DB 99836

Fantasy & Best Female Narrator: **The City We Became** by N.K. Jemisin, DB 98901

Fiction: **Such a Fun Age** by Kiley Reid, DB 97929

History/Biography: **His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope** by Jon Meacham, DB 101989

Humor: **A Very Punchable Face** by Colin Jost, DB 99679

Literary Fiction/Classics: **The Death of Vivek Oji** by Akwaeke Emezi, DB 100235

Multi-Voiced Performance & Young Adult: **Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo, DB 99823

Mystery: **Fair Warning** by Michael Connelly, DB 99807

Nonfiction: **Fire in Paradise** by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano, DB 100165

Science Fiction: **The Deep** by Rivers Solomon, with Daveed Diggs, William Huston and Jonathan Snipes, DB 98191

Thriller/Suspense: **When No One is Watching** by Alyssa Cole, DB 100647

Young Listeners (Up to Age 8): **The Overground Railroad** by Lesa Cline-Ransome, DB 102767

The full list, including finalists and non-accessible winners, is available at <https://www.audiopub.org/winners/2021-audies/>. Many of the finalists are also available in the NLS collection.

NLS BARD support team

The NLS BARD support team at NLSDownload@loc.gov responds to your email messages regarding Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service. Please follow these guidelines to help them speed up the process of resolving your BARD problems:

- If you are not writing to NLSDownload from the same email address you use when logging onto BARD, let them know the email address associated with your account. This enables them to go straight to your records. If you do not remember which email address that is, give them your full name and postal address so they can verify your account.
- Please use meaningful subject lines and be as specific as you can in the body of the message. A subject line like “Problem with DB34595” means a lot more than “Help!” or “BARD.” Likewise, instead of writing something generic like “Problem with the last book I downloaded” as the body of the message, tell them that you get an “end of book” message before the book has ended or that the audio becomes garbled for two minutes in Chapter Three, 1 hour and 45 minutes into the book. With that information, they can immediately test the book to see if the problem is with the book or if it is something on your end.
- Please keep your email conversation with NLSDownload intact. In other words, use “Reply” or “Reply All” when responding to a message from them, rather than starting a new message. There are multiple people who support BARD users. Having the conversation intact makes it easy for the entire support team to stay updated on the situation. They will not have to search their archives for previous fragments of the conversation.
- Please do not attach screen shots. Everyone at NLSDownload is blind, so providing a rich, verbal description of a problem will result in much faster and better service.

Spread the word

Do you know someone who could use TBBS? Think for a moment about the people you know – relatives, friends, neighbors, people in church and civic groups, and so on. There is a good chance one or more of them needs a different way to enjoy books, magazines and newspapers. They may have worsening vision, eye diseases, reading disabilities or could be dealing with conditions that make holding traditional books difficult or even impossible. Tens of thousands of Illinoisans are eligible for TBBS's free talking book service, but they do not know about us. That is where you can help. Even with all our outreach efforts, a word-of-mouth referral from a satisfied patron or supporter is still one of the most powerful ways of raising awareness. Please encourage the person you thought of to contact TBBS so he or she can enjoy reading again.

TBBS Contact Information

Phone: 800-426-0709 (toll-free in IL) or 217-785-0022

Email: isltbbs@ilsos.gov Website: www.ilbph.org

The announcement of products and services in this newsletter should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. Products and services are listed free of charge for the benefit of our readers. TBBS cannot be responsible for the reliability of products or services mentioned.

300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796

JESSE WHITE • ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE



Free Matter for the Blind