

# Connections

## Talking Book Service News

### **New Staff at the Idaho Commission for Libraries**

Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Talking Book Service (TBS) are pleased to welcome two new staff members, Sue Robinson and Barbara Sciscoe. Sue has been promoted to one of our four Customer Service Representative positions and Barb is our new Office Specialist/receptionist.

Sue started as a temporary staff member in August 2013 and has been a permanent addition since February 2014, greeting visitors at the front desk and callers on the phone, and has talked with many TBS users in that time. Before joining our staff, Sue volunteered at the Commission, narrating TBS books in our recording studios.

Sue has a passion for reading. She loves books and loves people, and the opportunity to put those things together makes her perfect for this new position. She looks forward to developing relationships with the TBS users, getting to know them and their reading preferences.



**Customer Service Representative  
Sue Robinson**

In addition to helping readers with their selections, Sue will be doing outreach programs for TBS, so you may see her out and about telling people all about this great service.

Sue is an avid reader. Her favorite genre is historical fiction, but she is currently expanding into new genres. In addition to reading

*(continued on page 2)*

## New Staff Members *(continued from page 1)*

in her spare time, Sue likes to knit and crochet, camp and hike in the summer, and travel with her husband when they can. But most of all, Sue loves to do family things with her children and her 16 grandchildren, ages (almost) one year to 16 years old.

Sue is friendly, knowledgeable, and customer-service oriented, and we are excited that she will be serving our TBS users in this new capacity.

Barb started with us in October. Before joining our staff, she worked for the Boise Public libraries and later with the Tucson School District as a library assistant. She has a passion for libraries and literature and is happy to be back in the library world helping the Commission assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Barb loves supporting libraries and appreciates working at the Commission because of its "appealing and inviting" atmosphere. Barb enjoys working with people and has been in customer service positions most of her working life. She likes helping



**Office Specialist Barbara Sciscoe**

others and relishes the "detective work" of finding information for them.

In her spare time, Barb enjoys sewing, quilting, knitting, biking, hiking, animals, and reading historical fiction and biographies.

So the next time you call or visit the Commission, Barb just might be that friendly voice at the front desk helping you out.

We feel very fortunate to have both Sue and Barb on staff, and we know they will represent our organization well.

## Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

### General Donations

Anonymous  
 Terry & Beverly Baird  
 Sophia Conway-Togores  
 Jerome Evans  
 Fay Gilkey  
 LaVonne Painter  
 Gayle & Keith Powell  
 Patricia & Dan Wieden  
 Doris Williams

### Memorial Donations

For Leonard Kraemer  
 Leonard Kraemer and Marty Nett  
For Deva Mitchell  
 Stephanie Fry  
 Susan & Stephen McDonough  
 William & Betty Roden  
For Betty Register  
 Chris & Amy Butler

Donations are used to enhance the Talking Book Service.

During the 2014 State fiscal year (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014) the following items were purchased using donation funds:

- 2 copies of seven Idaho related magazines to be recorded in the local studio
- 2 copies of thirty Idaho related books to be recorded in the local studio
- 2 copies of ten Braille books to be distributed to visually impaired toddlers via the Books to Go program
- Supplies for the recording studio such as headphones and DVDs
- Professional development activities for the Recording Studio manager

Other potential uses include upgrades to the recording studio

equipment and software, purchase of additional cartridges and mailing containers, and other activities necessary to maintain a quality recording studio.

Donations 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. Please 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 can be made online from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov> by clicking on the Donate Here! button in the lower left corner of the page.

Thanks to all for your generosity!

## Technology Tool: Unable to Read the Newspaper?

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB)-NEWSLINE® is a free service that gives any blind, visually impaired, or print disabled person access to newspapers, magazines, and TV listings 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using a touch-tone telephone. It has over 300 publications.

Every day, a subscriber can choose that day's, the previous day's, or the previous Sunday's issue of any newspaper in the service. On NFB-NEWSLINE®, the user can easily choose which newspaper, section, and article to read using a standard touch-tone telephone. The menu provided allows the user to change the speed and voice settings, spell out words,

or search for a particular word or subject.

NFB-NEWSLINE® also includes special local channels to distribute announcements of specific interest to the blind and over 40 magazines, ranging from the Arts, Science, Health and Fitness, Pop Culture, and National and International news.

NFB-NEWSLINE® is now available on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod with the free "app" from iTunes!

Please call the Talking Book Service at the Idaho Commission for Libraries for more information or to get signed up:  
208.334.2150 or 800.458.3271

## Magazine Corner

A reminder about the locally distributed magazines:

ARIZONA HIGHWAYS  
AARP: THE MAGAZINE  
CONNECTIONS: TBS NEWSLETTER  
COUNTRY  
ELDER UPDATE  
GOOD OLD DAYS  
GRIT  
IDAHO FALLS MAGAZINE  
IDAHO LANDSCAPES  
IDAHO MAGAZINE  
IDAHO YESTERDAYS  
OVERLAND JOURNAL

OWYHEE OUTPOST  
SANDPOINT MAGAZINE  
SUNSET

All have a two week check out period and need to be returned so that our other patrons may also read them in a timely fashion. They are easy to recognize as they arrive in a grey container with a pink sticker on the lid. If you could read them first when received and promptly return them it will be appreciated by all.  
Thank you.

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**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 Order Form, select the DBC 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.

***Raising Lucy: The True Story of Raising an Orphaned Wild Goose***

(Juvenile Nonfiction)

Author: Carol Muzik

Read By: Colette Cowman

What would you do if an orphaned day-old Canada gosling appeared on your doorstep? That was the dilemma for Carol and Nick Muzik as they set out to try and find the little gosling's real family and home. Unable to locate the parents, Nick and Carol found that Lucy, as they named her, had become part of their family. *Raising Lucy* is based on their true story of raising the gosling and her successful return to the wild.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00786) 2009

31 minutes

***American Amnesiac***

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Diane Raptosh

Read By: Carla Stern

Idaho's Writer in Residence 2013-2016, Diane Raptosh, presents a collection of poems that tells a haunting story. Following the manic journey of a man stripped of memory, *American Amnesiac* confronts the complexities of being American in an age of corruption, corporations, and global conflict. A modern day seer, John Doe's prophetic voice sings a jagged, intense dirge for the American Dream.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00787) 2013

1 hour 38 minutes

***Fit To Be Tied: #2 Sisters of Bethlehem Springs series*** (Adult Fiction)

Author: Robin Lee Hatcher

Read By: Susie Johnson

Cleo Arlington dresses like a cowboy, is fearless and fun loving, and can

ride, rope, and wrangle a horse as well as any man. In 1916, Cleo isn't like most women. Twenty-nine years old and single, Cleo loves life on her father's Idaho ranch. Still, she hopes someday to marry and have children.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00788) 2009 7 hours 52 minutes

*Idaho 100: The People Who Most Influenced the Gem State* (Adult Nonfiction)  
Authors: Martin Peterson and Randy Stapilus Read By: Larry Weeks  
How did Idaho get this way? There's no one reason, and historical trends have swept across Idaho like everywhere else, but the details easily might have been different. This book is about 100 people who, for better or worse, made Idaho much of what it is today. In *Idaho 100*, Peterson and Stapilus, who between them have been studying Idaho history for close to a century, unearth the sometimes famous, sometimes infamous, and often obscure people who most transformed Idaho to create what many people now take for granted.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00794) 2012 8 hours 49 minutes

*On the Dark Side of the Moon: A Journey Toward Recovery* (Adult Nonfiction)  
Author: Mike Medberry Read By: Sue Vap  
Medberry, in his own words, tells the harrowing story of suffering a massive stroke while visiting the Craters of the Moon National Monument. It is a place he loves and has worked diligently to preserve. Readers will enjoy his richly developed personal story about his recovery and his relationship with himself, his family, and the Craters.  
*Some strong language and some descriptions of sex*  
\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00798) 2012 6 hours 46 minutes

*On the Trail of Bronco Billy* (Adult Nonfiction)  
Author: Sandy Kershner Read By: Kathy Yribar  
In 1980, Clint Eastwood and crew came to the Treasure Valley in Idaho to film the movie *Bronco Billy*. Many local Idaho people were hired as extras or provided services to the film crew. Thirty years later, they still cherish the memories captured in the pages of this book.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00800) 2011 6 hours 5 minutes

***A Vote of Confidence: #1 Sisters of Bethlehem Springs series (Adult Fiction)*****Author: Robin Lee Hatcher****Read By: Colette Cowman**

Complaining about Bethlehem Springs' dissolute mayoral candidate, Gwen Arlington is challenged to take on the role herself. For seven years, she's carved out an independent life in the bustling mountain town of Bethlehem Springs, Idaho, teaching piano and writing for the local newspaper. But now she's a single woman running for mayor, and in 1915 this is bound to stir up trouble. This first book in the Sisters of Bethlehem Springs series provides intriguing insights into how women challenged convention and shaped America in the early 20th century.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00802) 2009

6 hours 52 minutes

***Outlaw Tales of Idaho: True Stories of the Gem State's Most Infamous Crooks, Culprits, and Cutthroats (Adult Nonfiction)*****Author: Randy Stapilus****Read By: Amie Dryden**

From Florence to Lewiston, Boise to Grangeville, the frontier towns of Idaho were populated by some of the toughest and most dangerous characters in the West. Serial killer Lyda Lewis poisoned her husbands to cash in on their life insurance policies. The Eddy and Splawn families created counterfeit U.S. gold pieces. And "Diamondfield Jack" Davis, a notorious killer, even shot a child's dog. Through these astonishing true stories, *Outlaw Tales* introduces you to a West wilder than you've ever imagined.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00827) 2008

3 hours 43 minutes

***Anything Worth Doing: The True Story of Adventure, Friendship and Tragedy on the Last of the West's Great Rivers (Adult Nonfiction)*****Author: Jo Deurbrouck****Read By: Kris Query**

On June 8, 1996, a small handmade wooden dory was launched onto Idaho's renowned Salmon River at peak flood of an extreme high water year. Jon Barker and Clancy Reece were professional raft guides whose lifelong friendship grew from their shared love of rivers. "Anything worth doing is worth overdoing" had become their shared motto and had led them into a series of journeys that spanned a decade. This was to be their most ambitious adventure yet. They planned to ride the raging river straight through the heart of Idaho's wilderness and set a 24-hour speed record. But that's not what happened.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00829) 2012

7 hours 8 minutes

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

**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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

The TBS newsletter with this order form is available on cartridge upon request. 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.*"

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New Book Order Form *continued from page 7*

***A Matter of Character: #3 Sisters of Bethlehem Springs series (Adult Fiction)***

**Author: Robin Lee Hatcher**

**Read By: Colette Cowman**

It's 1918 and Daphne McKinley, heiress to a small fortune, has found contentment in the town of Bethlehem Springs, Idaho. But Daphne has a secret.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00831) 2010

7 hours 2 minutes

### Order Magazines Below:

\_\_\_\_\_ARIZONA HIGHWAYS

\_\_\_\_\_AARP: THE MAGAZINE

\_\_\_\_\_CONNECTIONS: TBS NEWSLETTER

\_\_\_\_\_COUNTRY

\_\_\_\_\_ELDER UPDATE

\_\_\_\_\_GOOD OLD DAYS

\_\_\_\_\_GRIT

\_\_\_\_\_IDAHO FALLS MAGAZINE

\_\_\_\_\_IDAHO LANDSCAPES

\_\_\_\_\_IDAHO MAGAZINE

\_\_\_\_\_IDAHO YESTERDAYS

\_\_\_\_\_OVERLAND JOURNAL

\_\_\_\_\_OWYHEE OUTPOST

\_\_\_\_\_SANDPOINT MAGAZINE

\_\_\_\_\_SUNSET

## Volunteer Highlight—Penny Urriola

For two years, Penny Urriola has been coming to the Idaho Commission for Libraries on Thursdays for 6–7 hours to review and edit in-process locally recorded books. She loves making a product better and giving Talking Book Service (TBS) users a wide range of professional-sounding selections. She says it's fascinating to review a book and see what voice, breaths, and mistakes look like on the screen, and how narrator voices vary so much. It's also amazing to hear the difference from when a book is first recorded to when it has been cleaned up, with coughing and other distractions removed.

Penny thinks it's ideal that Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Winther starts future book narrators with the technical side of the process—reviewing and monitoring before narrating. Once volunteers are skilled at reviewing, some move on, pairing with a partner to take turns narrating and monitoring. Penny just began narrating in October. Experienced at singing, acting, and teaching, she looks forward to using her voice to record books.

Sheila says, "Penny is such an asset to our recording program. Her meticulous attention to detail

helps us produce local books on par with the nationally produced talking books. When she first came to us, she just wanted to narrate. I convinced her that if she started as a reviewer, she would learn a lot about how to narrate. And, I said, 'It should only be a couple months till I can get you started as a narrator.' Two years later, she is indeed finally getting the chance to narrate books. Thanks, Penny, for patiently waiting for the next step in your volunteer position!"

In her spare time, Penny enjoys poetry writing, bird watching and bird feeding, gardening, photography, and reading a wide spectrum of genres.

Thanks, Penny, for your dedication to improving the reading experience for our TBS users!



Volunteer Penny Urriola

## FAQs: Cassette Book Circulation

As stated in earlier issues, circulation of cassettes will end for Idaho's users on June 30, 2015. Following are answers to some common questions.

### Why is this happening?

New cassette players and cassettes have not been created for several years. The newer digital players are easier to use and the cartridges have a better sound quality. It is time for the cassette format to "retire."

### Can I keep my player?

No. Both the players and the cassettes are federal property. Federal law requires all outdated federal property be returned to the federal government for disposal.

### Can I purchase my player?

No. As stated above, both players and cassettes must be returned to the Idaho Talking Book Service for disposal according to federal regulations.

**Can I keep copies of favorite titles to play on another cassette player?** No. Since the TBS cassettes will only play on the yellow cassette players, cassettes without the players are useless.

### What do I need to do?

Anyone using a cassette player is encouraged to return the cassette player before June 30. After July 1, 2015, cassette books will no longer be sent. If you do not have a digital player, one will be sent upon request. The player is easy to use, and staff is available to help at 800.458.3271. It's time to enjoy the high-quality digital players and cartridges!

Those already using just the black digital player and cartridges do not need to do anything. Your service will remain the same.

## TBS 10<sup>2</sup> Club

Recent centenarians joining the Talking Book Service  
10<sup>2</sup> (Ten Squared) Club are:

Wilma Hoagland, Hammett, Born 10/19/1914

Irene Uptmor, Lewiston, Born 11/6/1914

Roman Peterson, Hayden, Born 11/10/1914



**Good Reads** by Judy Mooney**Warm and Fuzzy Audio Books****DB055055** *Visions of Sugar*

*Plums*: The Janet Evanovich series of Stephanie Plum books always make me laugh when I read them.

**DB044194** *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon: *The Mitford Years* is a great series to read or re-read!

**DB065774** *Elm Creek* series by Jennifer Chiaverini: Women forge friendships while sharing their needlecraft. In *The Quilter's Apprentice*, a newcomer takes quilting lessons from her crotchety employer. In *Round Robin*, the quilters open an instructional camp. In *The Cross-Country Quilters*, five new members join the group.

**DB055533** *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd: In South Carolina, 1964, fourteen-year-old Lily rescues her African-American housekeeper from the hospital after she was beaten for trying to vote. They flee to a safe place where Lily's battered late mother had also fled—a beekeeping operation run by three sisters.

**DB072633** *Heaven Is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back* by Todd Burpo: A pastor relates the experiences reported by his young

son, who believes that during an emergency surgery he died, went to heaven, and returned to life.

**Cozy Mystery Series****DB042815** *Burglars Can't Be*

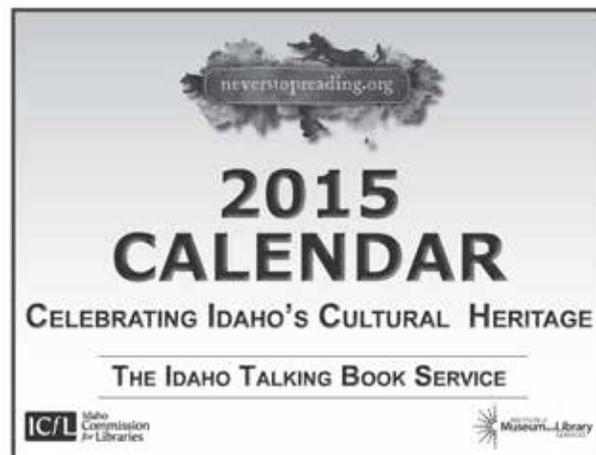
*Choosers* by Lawrence Sanders, Bernie Rhodenbarr series: Sanders is an American crime writer best known for two long-running New York-set series about the recovering alcoholic P.I. Matthew Scudder and the gentleman burglar Bernie Rhodenbarr, respectively. Sanders's Bernie Rhodenbarr series, humorous and much lighter in tone, relates the misadventures of the gentleman burglar. The series is rich in sophisticated, witty dialogue.

**DB049384** *Aunt Dimity's Death* by Nancy Atherton: Atherton is an American writer and author of the *Aunt Dimity* mystery novel series, which presently extends to nineteen volumes. The series follows the adventures of American Lori Shepherd and her growing family as she resolves mysteries with the help of her deceased benefactor, Aunt Dimity, who communicates with her from the spirit world by means of a blue leather-bound writing journal. Each book contains a recipe for a bread or pastry, which is integral to the story.

This newsletter is available on cartridge upon request. 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.*"



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## 2015 Calendar Arrival

The 2015 Talking Book Service (TBS) large-print calendar was sent to TBS users in early November. If you haven't received yours yet, please contact the Talking Book Service at 800.458.3271.

If you don't use the TBS large-print calendar, please contact the Talking Book Service to have your name removed from the calendar mailing list.