

# Connections

## Talking Book Service News

### Volunteer Appreciation at the Commission

In 2014, 95 individuals gave 7,640 hours of their time at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), helping with numerous programs.

We recognized their dedication during Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 12–18, with the theme “Whooo makes a difference at ICfL? Yooou do!” Refreshments were supplied by ICfL staff throughout the week at the “Volunteer Café.” On April 15, volunteers were treated to a guided tour of the Basque Museum and Cultural Center. Then, on April 22, we honored the volunteers at a luncheon in the Capitol Dining Room at the Statehouse. The event included a taco salad bar, service certificates, and thank-you gifts.

State Librarian Ann Joslin said that the hours the volunteers contributed in 2014 are the equivalent of 3.66 full-time staff members, which is one/



**State Librarian Ann Joslin thanks the volunteers for their dedicated service**

tenth of our paid staff. She noted that the Commission couldn't be nearly as productive carrying out our programs and services for the Idaho library community without the volunteers who come in day after day and year after year.

Volunteer coordinator Sheila Winther commented on the longevity of volunteers, saying that 63 of our volunteers have been coming to the Commission for five or more years. In fact, the 10 volunteers who reached

*(continued on page 2)*

milestones in 2014 total 115 years among them.

#### Milestones for our 2014 volunteers

- **1,000 hours of service:**  
Pam Frazer
- **2,000 hours of service:**  
Robert Vining
- **5 years of service:**  
Anne Reagan
- **10 years of service:**  
Dale Drew, Mary Moore
- **15 years of service:**  
Susie Johnson, Janet Nelson,  
Ruby Weaver
- **20 years of service:**  
Carla Stern
- **25 years of service:**  
Larry Weeks

Larry Weeks, honored for 25 years of volunteering, has also served on the ICfL Board of Library Commissioners for 19 years. Appointed in 1996 to finish out another Commissioner's term, Larry has served under two State Librarians, has served under both the Idaho State Library and Idaho Commission for Libraries, and has served while the Commission was under State Board of Education and then a Self-Governing Agency. Larry was also instrumental in the change to our mission statement: *to assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.*

#### Statistics for 2014 include:

- **Studio production time:** 3,740 hours
- **Digital books recorded:** 25 titles
- **Magazines recorded:** 29 issues
- **Digital books duplicated:** 2,687
- **Digital magazines duplicated:** 1,288
- **Books converted from analog to digital:** 110
- **Books uploaded to BARD:** 15
- **TBS machines cleaned and serviced:** 678  
(155 cassette, 523 digital)
- **TBS books inspected:** 153,768
- **Jump Start folders assembled:** 15,000
- **Stickers in thousands of books for numerous literacy programs**

Sheila pointed out that, as impressive as these statistics are, it is the impact of these volunteer efforts on Idahoans that is truly noteworthy. Their tasks help us reach underserved children and get books into their hands and homes, mailings keep Idaho libraries and TBS users informed, our locally recorded books are downloaded all over the country, and book inspection and duplication keep TBS users from long waits for the books they request. The Commission is truly grateful to the volunteers for all they do to help enhance library services in Idaho.

*Email: [talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov) • Website: [libraries.idaho.gov/tbs](http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs)  
Phone: 208.334.2150 or 800.458.3271*

## Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

### General Donations

Mrs. Merle Brown  
Deborah DeThomas  
William & Virginia Dodge  
Dorothea Giannini  
Kerr Surveying / Faye Kerr  
Patricia Myklebust  
Hazel Pace  
Willis Sawyer  
Rosemary Shaber  
Christine Terry  
David & Ann Triplett  
Yolanda Werdel

### Memorial Donations

For Joan Baugh

Mr. Carrol Tyler

For Shirley Burnell

Marien Barton

For Stella Demo

Pam Demo & Richard Schultz

For Kenneth Fallon, Sr.

Kenneth & Elizabeth Fallon

For Lois Johnson

Kathie Butler & Ron Johnson

For Peggy Osborn  
Louise & Ryan Henley

For Evelyn Pucci  
Philip & Jeanne Dreisbach

For Wilma Shewmaker  
Hilary Benoit

Donations are used to enhance the Idaho Talking Book Service and 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!

### Talking Book Service 10<sup>2</sup> Club

Centenarians joining the 10<sup>2</sup> (Ten Squared) Club are:

Norman R. Logan, Moscow, Born 04/30/1915

Maxine Paul, Coeur d'Alene, Born 05/22/1915

Naomi Wilde, Preston, Born 06/06/1915

Marien Barton, Boise, Born 06/29/1915

## Magazine Corner

Although our locally produced magazines are very popular, the National Library Service (NLS) also has a great variety of magazine titles available on cartridge, by download, and in press and/or electronic Braille.

Over the next few issues, we will highlight titles on different topics. You can subscribe to these titles by using the order form in the middle of this issue. Remember to include your name at the top of the form. Contact TBS for a complete list of NLS titles, or to request a specific title.

### Home and Garden Management Magazines:

- Consumer Reports*, available on cartridge and download from BARD
- Good Housekeeping*, available on cartridge and download from BARD
- Horticulture*, available on cartridge and download from BARD
- Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, available in e-braille and press braille
- Ladies' Home Journal*, available in e-braille and press braille
- Martha Stewart Living*, available in e-braille and press braille

- Money*, available on cartridge and download from BARD
- Parents*, available in e-braille and press braille
- Popular Mechanics*, available in e-braille and press braille

If you subscribe to more than one audio NLS magazine title, they will arrive with multiple titles and/or issues on one cartridge. To access the different titles use the "bookshelf" function on your player. With the cartridge in the player, hold the Play/Stop button down until the player tells you "Bookshelf." Then use the FF (fast forward) or RW (rewind) keys to advance through the titles on the cartridge. Press the Play/Stop button to select and press it again to start reading the title you select. These instructions should also be at the beginning of any cartridge that has multiple books, magazines, or magazine issues on it. Magazines should be listened to as soon as possible after you receive them and returned so that others may also enjoy them.

NLS has changed the length of time  
you may keep magazines before returning:  
Weekly magazines—3 weeks from receipt  
Monthly magazines—7 weeks from receipt

Remember to return all cartridges in order to receive another magazine.

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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.

***A Gift from Daniel*****(Adult Nonfiction)****Author: Karen Alexander****Read By: Mary Jane Marlow**

Like many of us, Karen Alexander was preoccupied with her own life—an average life filled with joy and sadness, and everyday problems. But, while she knew deep down that there had to be more to life than just “getting by,” she never really thought she could reach another level of peace. Then she met Daniel, a spiritual guide who appeared in the form of a seven-year-old. His insight made Karen question the way she viewed herself and treated others—even the way she thought about God. And, through Daniel’s calm, clear vision, she saw what life can be about.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00782) 1996

9 hours 28 minutes

***Atomic America: How a Deadly Explosion and a Feared Admiral Changed the Course of Nuclear History*****(Adult Nonfiction)****Author: Todd Tucker****Read By: Lana Thurston**

On January 3, 1961, nuclear reactor SL-1 exploded in rural Idaho, spreading radioactive contamination over thousands of acres and killing three men. The army blamed “human error” and a sordid love triangle. Though overshadowed by Three Mile Island, SL-1 remains the only fatal nuclear reactor incident in American history. The National Reactor Testing Station, where the meltdown occurred, had been a proving ground where engineers, generals, and admirals attempted to realize the Atomic Age dream of unlimited power. *Atomic America* is a fast-paced narrative history, advocating caution and accountability.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00810) 2009

9 Hours

***Mustard's Last Stand***

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Kathy McIntosh

Read By: Deborah Lynch

Can Ed Mustard turn a chaotic stew into a dish that will win the blue ribbon at Hancock Days? Recipe for Disaster—or is it Destiny—Stew:

Take: One tiny, cash-strapped, oddball-rich town in north Idaho

Add: One struggling screenwriter seeking solace in his hometown

One extra-large mustard jar bearing cremains of a famous actress

One former car salesman turned canned hunt enthusiast

One fake preacher-for-hire/con man on the run

One dedicated and discredited eco activist, dressed in animal skins

Four determined pregnant women

Sprinkle with assorted captive African wildlife. Stir thoroughly and let simmer. Watch things boil over in Hancock, Idaho.

***Contains Strong Language***

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00812) 2012

9 hours 35 minutes

***Pioneer Mother on the River of No Return: The Life of Isabella Kelly Benedict Robie***

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Herman Wiley Ronnenberg

Read By: Kris Query

Isabella lived with her husband and family at the confluence of White Bird Creek and the Salmon River at the very beginning of the Nez Perce War in 1877. When her husband was slain, Isabella carried two of her young children up the White Bird trail, seeking safety. In constant terror and without food or means of defense, she met the U.S. cavalry two days later. But their inept rescue attempt left Isabella in grave danger as the Battle of White Bird ensued. This is the story of an Idaho pioneer mother who lived to become the honored ancestor of many prominent Idahoans.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00814) 2012

6 hours 25 minutes

***Belonging: Where the Heart Lives, Book 1***

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Robin Lee Hatcher

Read By: Susie Johnson

In the high desert town of Frenchman's Bluff, in the newly formed state of Idaho, Felicia has set out to create a future for herself that is better than her painful past. Alone in the world with only her faith to sustain her, she must prove herself as this tiny community's new school teacher. She cannot, must not, fail. Five years after the death of his wife, local merchant Colin Murphy cares about just one thing, raising his daughter, Charity. Will this new,

inexperienced teacher be the educator he is hoping for, or will she up and marry and break Charity's heart like the last one did?

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00815) 2011

7 hours 55 minutes

***Growing Up in Vale***

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Donald E. Masterson Jr.

Read By: Maryan Stephens

The author describes his "Tom Sawyer-like life" growing up in the small town of Vale, Oregon. As an adult, he became part of a startup company, Ore-Ida, which grew to \$1 billion in annual sales during his 30 years of employment. From his small-town roots, through WWII and on into retirement, his story captures life in the great Pacific Northwest.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00817) 2011

16 hours 36 minutes

***Pioneer Theatre in the Boise Basin: 1863-1899***

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Charles E. Lauterbach, Ph.D.

Read By: Maryan Stephens

The interesting story of how, in four decades, an isolated mining camp supply town in the Idaho territory overcame major obstacles to earn recognition as a Pacific Northwest "show town" with a fine theatre and large audiences to support frequent performances by national touring companies.

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00834) 2013

6 hours 25 minutes

***I'd Rather be Lucky!***

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Jack Franklin

Read By: Kathy Yribar

Mormons and Masons, Indians, gold-seekers, bad men and good men were responsible for settlement of the West. This is the story of how one young man and woman may have taken part in settling the Owyhee country of what would become Idaho Territory. Many events in this story actually happened. Many are what might have happened. Who knows for sure?

\_\_\_\_\_ (DBC00835) 2005

10 hours 25 minutes

Order Books from Pulitzer Prize Winner/Idaho Author Anthony Doerr

\_\_\_\_\_ DB079182 *All the Light We Cannot See*

\_\_\_\_\_ VDB01193 *About Grace: A Novel*

\_\_\_\_\_ VDB01200 *The Shell Collector: Stories*

\_\_\_\_\_ DB066811 *Four Seasons in Rome*

Order Form continued on page 8

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

**FREE MATTER FOR THE  
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED**



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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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Order Form *continued from page 7*

### Order Magazines Below:

#### Regional Magazines

- Arizona Highways*
- AARP: The Magazine*
- Connections:*
  - TBS Newsletter*
- Country*
- Elder Update*
- Good Old Days*
- Grit*
- Guidepost*
- Idaho Falls Magazine*
- Idaho Landscapes*
- Idaho Magazine*
- Idaho Yesterdays*
- Overland Journal*
- Owyhee Outpost*
- Sandpoint Magazine*
- Sunset*

#### NLS Magazines

- Consumer Reports*
- Good Housekeeping*
- Horticulture*
- Kiplinger's Personal Finance*
- Ladies' Home Journal*
- Martha Stewart Living*
- Money*
- Parents*
- Popular Mechanics*

## Cassette Books and Cassette Players

There is a time for everything, and the time for cassette books and players will end July 1, 2015. What does that mean for you?

1. After July 1, only digital books on cartridges will be mailed to you. Cassettes will no longer circulate.
2. If you have a yellow player and cassette books as pictured below, please return them to the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS). They are the property of the U.S. government so cannot be kept by users.
3. Contact TBS at 800.458.3271 if you need a box to mail the player. You can also place
4. the player in a box and write "Free postage for the Blind and Physically Handicapped" in the upper right hand corner. The box will be mailed free.
5. TBS users will continue to receive cartridges through the mail and will be able to download from BARD.
6. The black digital player will continue to be the player used to play digital cartridges. For those who have joined the service since 2010, the digital player is probably the only player you have.
7. As always, contact TBS at 800.458.3271 with questions or concerns.



Yellow cassette player with white cassettes in a green container

## TBS Snapshot Day

Idaho Library Snapshot Day is an opportunity for Idaho's libraries to capture one day's activities as an example of the variety of tasks completed and persons served each day.

On April 14, the Talking Book Service (TBS) staff:

- Handled: 51 phone calls
- Checked in: 563 books
- Checked out: 912 books (not including BARD downloads)

In addition:

- 1 user visited the library
- 13 individuals and 1 group volunteered 35 hours supporting circulation and book production.

User comment about TBS service: "I received the Bible I had requested and wanted to express thanks for the wonderful service, in particular the indefinite checkout of The Bible."

These numbers reflect the efforts staff makes every day to deliver quality service to all TBS users.



Commission staff checking in books

## NLS Site Visit

The Idaho Talking Book Service welcomed National Library Service (NLS) regional consultant Pamela Davenport for a two-day visit in April. NLS staff visits Talking Book Service (TBS) agencies biennially to review operations, discuss any issues, and identify successful activities to share with other Talking Book libraries throughout the U.S. Pam toured the library, shared ideas from other libraries, and answered questions about upcoming changes at NLS.

Pam will write a report on her findings and share it with staff



Pam Davenport and several Idaho TBS staff members

within a few weeks. Staff enjoyed visiting with her, sharing what's new at TBS in the last two years, and receiving new ideas to enhance and promote the service.

## Idaho Author Wins Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Idaho author Anthony Doerr has won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction with his novel *All the Light We Cannot See*. The Pulitzer judges called Doerr's work "imaginative and intricate." Featured in our Winter 2015 newsletter in the "What Are You Reading" article by volunteer Maryan Stephens, *All the Light We Cannot See* "weaves together two parallel stories during World War II. One follows Marie, a blind French girl with a rich imaginary life who flees Paris with her father, a museum locksmith who is hiding a diamond from Nazi looters. The second story revolves around Werner, a German orphan whose brilliant mind has brought him to the attention of the Nazis."

The Pulitzer Prize for fiction is given for "distinguished fiction by an American author, preferably dealing with American life," so Doerr's win with a novel set in France is especially remarkable. Fittingly, he and his family were in Paris when they learned the news.

Doerr told the Associated Press, "Obviously, it's wonderful," and people in Idaho's literary community seem to agree, some adding that it couldn't have happened to a nicer man. Doerr has long been supportive of Idaho readers, libraries, and communities.



Anthony Doerr speaks at a Southwest Idaho Library Association conference

Doerr has been the recipient of numerous literary awards and honors. *All the Light We Cannot See* was also a finalist for the National Book Awards and has been optioned for film. The book is Doerr's second novel. He has also written and published two volumes of short stories and a memoir. See the Order Form in this newsletter to order these books.

***All the Light We Cannot See***  
Adult Fiction: DB079182

***About Grace: A Novel***  
Adult Fiction: VDB01193

***The Shell Collector: Stories***  
Adult Fiction: VDB01200

***Four Seasons in Rome: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World***  
Adult Nonfiction: DB066811



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This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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## Android App Update

Many users have been waiting for the app to download books and magazines from BARD onto their Android devices. This includes phones and tablets using the Android operating system. Progress continues on developing the app to the point that the software has been tested by some users to ensure it has the accessibility features that will make it reliable and easy to use. Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) user and

volunteer Roy Younger is beta-testing apps for the National Library Service (NLS). Once it has reached the quality level that the NLS requires of its products, it will be available as a free download, similar to the iOS app that has been available for several months. TBS staff will keep users current on the status of the app via the newsletter and blogs on the TBS website: [libraries.idaho.gov/tbs](http://libraries.idaho.gov/tbs).