

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Spring 2016

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Library Highlight: Nampa Public Library

Idaho's public libraries provide diverse resources for Idaho residents. Public libraries can supplement the titles available through the Talking Book Service in both large print and audio formats, have resources that can be accessed remotely, and provide diverse services and interesting programs.

If you are a Nampa resident and have not visited the new library, you have a treat in store for you! This 62,000 square foot building on three levels includes a terrace for quiet reading and artwork throughout the building. Study rooms and meeting rooms accommodate programs and individual meetings, and can be reserved for individual or group use.

Resources include books in both large print and audio formats, available in both physical and digital formats. eAudiobooks can be downloaded directly to an i-Pad or Kindle player. eBooks and



eMagazines are also available for download.

Programs on a variety of subjects for all ages are available and can be viewed on the library's event calendar at nampalibrary.org/calendar/.

The library's resources are available to all Nampa residents. For more information, contact the library at 208.468.5800 or visit their website at nampalibrary.org/.

Innovative services and community

FAQs: Player Tips

The digital player has been in use for so long, some of its features may be underused. The following questions highlight some of these buttons and their uses. The buttons on the standard player will be described in this issue. Additional buttons available on the advanced player will be described in the next issue.

What does the "tone" button do?

This button, located in the upper left-hand corner of the player, changes the narrator's tone. Pressing this button up or down makes the voice higher or lower in tone. It is even possible to make a female voice low enough to make it understandable by someone unable to understand higher pitched female voices.

My book is read too fast for me to understand. Can I fix it? The speed button, located in the upper right-hand corner of the player, controls the speed at which the book is read. Increasing or decreasing the speed allows the user to listen to the book at a comfortable speed. The speed can only be changed when a cartridge is in the player.

What is the bookshelf and how do I get to it? The bookshelf feature allows users to listen to multiple titles on the same cartridge. If you subscribe to more than one magazine, you will use this

feature to access all the issues on a cartridge. Access the bookshelf by pressing and holding the "Play/Stop" button until you hear a beep and the word "bookshelf." The first title on the cartridge will then be announced. Use the fast forward and rewind buttons on either side of the "Play/Stop" button to progress through the list of titles. Select the title you wish to hear by pressing the "Play/Stop" button again. Return to the list of titles by pressing the "Play/Stop" button until the bookshelf is announced again.

When I insert my cartridge, the player says "end of book." Why can't I hear my book? To go to the beginning of the book, press the "Play/Stop" button twice. If that does not work, use the "RW" (rewind) button to go backwards. The longer you hold the button down, the faster it will rewind until the beginning of the book is reached.

"RW" (rewind) and "FF" (fast forward) buttons: These buttons allow the user to quickly navigate through the book. As each button is held down, the player announces the amount of time elapsed. The "RW" button is also useful when returning to read after a break.

(continued on page 3)

FAQs *continued from page 2*

Press the button one or two times to re-read a few seconds. This is a great way to refresh your memory on what was happening!

Remember, each button will describe its use when it is pressed with no cartridge in the player, if the power is on.

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

General Donations

Judy Barker
 Arlo and Wanda Belnap
 Donna Bretthauer
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 Paul Eastman
 Mary Harrington
 Larue and Marty Humphries
 Tom and Faye Kerr
 Doris and Charles Kinn
 Cecilia B. Langland
 Margaret Mortensen
 Juanita Parke
 Gwenlee Riedel
 Marie Wyatt

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

Memorial Donations

For Dorothy Bergman
 Mark Williams

For Mack Dinwiddie
 Edwynn and Mary Christophersen

For Kenneth Fallon, Sr.
 Kenneth Fallon

For Davis Alan Fernstermaker
 Dale and Theo Fife

For Kathie Fife
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For Sylvia Knight
 Roxie Fager
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hope

For Fern Little
 Irene Crane

For Ardene Riddle
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For Bob Swanson
 Ronald McNeff

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!

Historical Fiction Favorites by Sue Robinson

I like to describe historical fiction as, "a spoon full of fiction helps the history go down!" A few recent favorites are annotated below.

DB075609 *Jepp, Who Defied the Stars* by Katherine Marsh. Jepp, a young dwarf living in 16th century Europe, asks whether our fate is written in the stars from our birth, or, if it is a bendable thing we can shape with our own hands. Seeking this answer, Jepp leaves his home with a stranger. Thus begins a string of exciting and amazing events as this extraordinary hero seeks to become the master of his own destiny!

DB036421 *The Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains* by Owen Wister. Originally published in 1902, this novel is among the first "true" American westerns! Although it contains the necessary pistols and horse thieves, this is primarily a story of realistic people living and working in the West. A southern cowboy working on a Wyoming ranch seeks justice for robbers, while trying to win the love of the new school marm. This ride through the lives and times and territories of the west from Wyoming to Idaho will leave the reader with a good feeling about courage and loyalty and trust.

DB079346 *Mr. Churchill's Secretary: A Maggie Hope Mystery* by Susan Elia MacNeal. This is the

first of a gripping new mystery series featuring intrepid spy and code breaker, Maggie Hope, during World War II in England. Maggie, possessing intelligence and skill, is allowed only to be a typist for the prime minister until she proves her ability and is trained as an MI5 agent. Thereafter we meet Mr. Churchill, the English Royals, the Nazi Resistance in Berlin, Operation Compassionate Death, biological warfare, Pearl Harbor and America's entrance into the war, and much more!

You may also want to look at some of the following recommended choices:

DB052560 *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* by Mark Twain. (Britain, 528 AD)

DB022927 *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare. (Colonial New England)

SUT01504 *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright. (20th Century, Cambodia)

DB039327 *Christy* by Catherine Marshall. (19th Century Appalachian Mountains)

DB067644 *A Woman's Place* by Lynn Austin. (War Era, Michigan)
I recommend everything by Lynn Austin!

VDB01315 *Then Sings My Soul* by C.E. Stout. (Depression Era Pacific Northwest)

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 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.

James Castle: His Art and Life

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Tom Trusky

Read By: Carla Stern

James Castle was born in Garden Valley, Idaho in 1899. He was born deaf and never gained verbal or sign language, but he was a boy who loved to draw. Without any formal training or materials, he drew on anything that was available to him. He created his own artist tools with whatever was available. The evocative images that he created with these crude tools have captivated the art community. His remarkable art has been displayed and appreciated around the world.

_____ (DBC00823) 2008

8 hours 4 minutes

Trafficking: A Memoir of an Undercover Game Warden (Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Tony H. Latham

Read By: Don Evans

Tony Latham's career as a game warden changed him personally. As an undercover operative, he investigated the criminal trafficking of big game animals in Idaho for profit. Legitimate hunting was one thing, but this criminal activity was a game changer for this warden. This memoir will provide the reader with an inside look at the dark side of game trafficking in Idaho.

_____ (DBC00828) 2012

Some violence

8 hours 15 minutes

On Top of Moon Mountain (The Moon Mountain Series Book 1)

(Young Adult Fiction)

Author: Marilyn J. Harris**Read By: Susie Johnson**

In the peaceful little community of Eagle, Idaho, fourteen-year-old Will Richardson and his younger brother Clay have everything two boys could ask for: money, a beautiful home, a cabin in the mountains, good friends and the perfect family. But things turned violently wrong when a collapsed economy starts a domino effect that leaves death and destruction in its wake.

_____ (DBC00837) 2010

6 hours 13 minutes

Francie's Camera: The Art and Stories of Robert Auth

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Robert Auth**Read By: Kris Query**

This is the memoir of Idaho artist Robert Auth. Packed with his distinctive photographs and artwork, in a yarn-by-yarn conversation, he leads readers from his childhood home in Illinois, through WWII onboard a naval destroyer, to his decision to move to Idaho in 1959 "to leave home and become a frontiersman." Inspired by his mother, Francie, who took her Kodak everywhere she took her purse, Robert's art and stories span decades of one-man art shows, exhibits at the Boise Art Museum, inclusion in a Smithsonian traveling exhibit, and the National Postal Museum.

_____ (DBC00847) 2011

4 hours 6 minutes

Anatomy of Melancholy and Other Poems

(Adult Poetry)

Author: Robert Wrigley**Read By: Susie Johnson**

Robert Wrigley has become one of his generation's most accomplished poets, renowned for his irony, power, and lucid style and for his ability to fuse narrative and lyrical impulses. This collection of poems means to examine our world through the lens of melancholia. From imagined memorials to the war dead to insomniac chickens, from Descartes' lost daughter to a dreaming tree, from King Kong to Rush Limbaugh, these are poems that celebrate that most beautiful, exasperating, joyous, miserable, and perfectly imperfect of all creatures—the human being.

_____ (DBC00849) 2013

2 hours 10 minutes

When Your Honey-Do Done Gone: Endings and Beginnings

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Lorraine Neeley Fortunati**Read By: Maryan Stephens**

With the last exhale, your life changed indelibly. Time has passed. Friends and family have gone back to living their same lives. You don't have that option but you have survived. Now what? Where do you go from here?

These are just two of the many questions the author posed to herself as she navigated the unknown waterways of her widowhood. This book is the outcome of her search for answers.

Idaho author

_____ (DBC00853) 2013

7 hours 24 minutes

Pudd'nhead Wilson

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Mark Twain**Read By: Tom Jaramillo**

At the beginning of the book, a young slave woman, fearing for her infant son's life, exchanges her light-skinned child with her master's.

From this rather simple premise, Mark Twain fashioned one of his most entertaining and funny, yet biting, novels. Seething with the undercurrents of antebellum southern culture, the book is a savage indictment in which the real criminal is society, and racial prejudice and slavery are the crimes.

Idaho recording for our "Let's Talk About It" book discussion program

_____ (DBC00857) 1894

5 hours 36 minutes

***Beyond the Idaho Mountains* (The Moon Mountain Series Book 2)**

(Young Adult Fiction)

Author: Marilyn J. Harris**Read By: Maryan Stephens**

679 days after the disappearance of the entire Richardson family, two filthy, vagrant teenagers appeared from beyond the Idaho mountains in search of their destiny. There had been no trace of this prominent family since they mysteriously vanished from their beautiful Eagle, Idaho home. With the reappearance of the two teens, the mystery may finally be resolved.

_____ (DBC00858) 2011

6 hours 20 minutes

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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.*"

New Book Order Form *continued from page 7*

Betrayal: Where the Heart Lives

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Robin Lee Hatcher

Read By: Colette Cowman

Can two wounded hearts find a way to trust again? A thoughtful romance from the turn of the twentieth century, *Betrayal* will take you to the high desert of western Wyoming, through the crags of the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, and into the souls of two seekers learning to trust God's love no matter the circumstances.

_____ (DBC00860) 2012

6 hours 15 minutes

From the What are You Reading? article (page 11)

_____ (DB080635) *The Girl on the Train*

Volunteer Highlight—Beatriz Lanfranchi

Beatriz Lanfranchi, a student from Brazil, volunteered 40 hours at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) January 4–February 5, during her summer vacation. Prior to arriving in Boise, she found ICfL volunteer opportunities by searching on *volunteermatch.org*. She chose to help out at ICfL because she was curious about the “backstage” of libraries and how books are organized before they are made available for the public.

Her routine at ICfL consisted of helping out the Talking Book Service (TBS), labeling outdated cassette tapes correctly so they could be mailed to Pennsylvania for storage because the TBS collection has been replaced with cartridges. She also helped whenever staff needed an extra hand—inspecting books, labeling shelves, or folding letters to send to patrons.

For Beatriz, the best parts of volunteering were the people she met while donating her time, because she learned from and about them, and the people she was helping, because sometimes the talking books provide companionship and it felt good to help make their day brighter.

In her free time, Beatriz enjoys photography, swimming, biking, surfing, reading, wandering around

São Paulo, and visiting museums and parks. Traveling is her biggest passion and she loved the Treasure Valley for all its outdoor activities.

When she is not reading articles for class, Beatriz

enjoys reading both fiction and non-fiction, romances, travel stories, biographies, war, and history books. She is currently reading *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee.

Currently Beatriz is a sophomore at Universidade Anhembi Morumbi in Brazil, majoring in International Relations. In the near future she plans to be a foreign exchange student again—in Chile so she can become fluent in Spanish. She also wants to go back to Boise in 2018, so she can see friends and family again. She says, “Why not volunteer again at ICfL? I loved my time spent there, and wanted to thank everyone on the staff. With your work you help people all over the state to stay in touch with culture, and never stop learning and reading!”



Beatriz Lanfranchi

Talking Book Service 10² Club

Centenarians joining the 10² (Ten Squared) Club:

Grace Turek, McCall, Born 05/16/1916

Eva Holcomb, Rupert, Born 05/18/1916

Marcella Tracy, Boise, Born 05/23/1916

Arlene Grose, Twin Falls, Born 06/08/1916



Microsoft's Disability Answer Desk

Microsoft is committed to helping people of all abilities use technology efficiently and effectively. Their Disability Answer Desk (DAD) staff specializes in assisting customers with disabilities as well as providing support using accessibility settings in Microsoft products. Help is available using Microsoft products such as screen magnifiers, speech recognition software, Microsoft-compatible devices and

accessibility features. The Answer Desk is available:

Monday-Friday:

5:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (PDT)

Saturday and Sunday:

6:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (PDT)

More information is available at the link below, including a chat link that is available 24/7: support.microsoft.com/en-us/answerdesk/accessibility

Print/Braille Books Now Available

The Talking Book Service has added Print/Braille books to its circulating collection. The target audience is children with limited vision so the reading level is for pre-school and early readers. However, the titles would also be useful for more advanced Braille readers to share with children or for early print readers to read with Braille readers such as parents, grandparents, or friends.

Titles include such favorites as *The Cat in the Hat*, *Curious George*, and *Peter Rabbit*.

There are several titles in Spanish, some touch and feel books, and even some with sounds. The titles can be checked out for four weeks to anyone who is registered to use the Talking Book Service, including institutions such as schools and care facilities.

Titles can be searched in the online catalog at webopac.klas.com/id1aopac/ or contact the Talking Book Service at 800.458.3271 for a list of titles.

What Are You Reading?

by Barbara Sciscoe, Office Specialist



Barbara Sciscoe, Idaho Commission for Libraries' receptionist, is the friendly person helping you out when you call or visit the Commission.

Barb Sciscoe recently read *The Girl on the Train*, a mystery/suspense/psychological thriller by Paula Hawkins. The story takes place in contemporary London and is told in first person by the main protagonist, Rachel. Rachel is the "girl on the train" who commutes into London and back each day on a route that takes her past a home that was once hers, but now houses her ex-husband and his new wife. Each day Rachel also passes by the backyard of her ex's neighbors and fantasizes about one happy-looking couple. She yearns for the idyllic life she imagines this presumed "husband and wife" have. Then one day the wife goes missing.

In addition to the divorce and her ex's new wife, Rachel struggles with excessive drinking. The fact that she has a history of drunken blackouts and has a hard time separating fact from fiction makes her an unreliable narrator, which adds to the twists, turns, and uncertainty of the unfolding story of a possible murder. She believes she may have witnessed an important clue, but she herself is no longer sure of what she has seen or what may have been just something she imagined.

Although *The Girl on the Train* is a different genre than Barb usually reads, she would definitely call this a page-turner. There was never a lull and it kept her interested. And, although she didn't particularly enjoy delving into Rachel's addictions and other tough subjects in the book, she could relate to the story because it was realistic and allowed the reader to experience Rachel's raw emotions. The book has a climactic ending and is one that Barb would recommend to others.

*Strong language and descriptions
of sex*

The Girl on the Train

Adult Fiction: **DB080635**



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

High-Volume Player Now Available

A high-volume version of the digital talking-book player is now available for use by patrons who are hearing impaired. The high-volume player is paired with a headset and is available as a standard or advanced (DS-1/DA-1) model that has been programmed to have an amplified volume up to 120 decibels (dB). This player can be issued only by the National Library Service (NLS). The high-volume feature only works with the set of stereo headphones that NLS provides. The pairing replaces the amplifier/headset accessory.

To receive a high-volume player and headset, a patron must provide certification of hearing impairment by a physician or audiologist. The Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS) has application forms and will forward completed and certified applications to NLS for patrons. The player will be shipped to the user directly from NLS. Contact TBS at 800.458.3271 for more information.