

Connections

Talking Book Service News

Volunteer Appreciation at the Commission

In 2015, 92 individuals gave 8,700 hours of their time at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL), helping with numerous programs.

We recognized their dedication during Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 10–16, with the theme “Volunteers: the Heart of ICfL.” Refreshments were supplied by ICfL staff throughout the week at our “Volunteer Café.” On April 14, we honored the volunteers at a luncheon in the Capitol Dining Room at the Statehouse. The event included a buffet lunch, acknowledgements, and thank-you gifts. Then, on April 19, volunteers were treated to a guided tour of the Idaho Military Museum.

At the luncheon, Administrative Services Manager Roger Dubois called volunteers “the lifeblood” of ICfL. He said, “We set aside a week to honor you, but we want



Nine of our volunteers with their longevity certificates

you to know that we appreciate you all year long.” The hours that the volunteers contributed in 2015 are the equivalent of four full-time staff members; 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.

Ben Quintana—guest speaker, Boise City Council member, and ex officio member of Serve Idaho—noted that in 2015, Idaho ranked second in the nation in

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volunteering. He talked about the time, talent, and treasure that volunteers donate for a variety of reasons. Many of the volunteers at the luncheon said they began volunteering to “get out of the house,” “repair my karma,” “socialize,” or “alleviate boredom;” however, once they started they were hooked on the good feeling they derived from giving of themselves.

Milestones for our 2015 volunteers

- **15 Years of Service:**
Liz Carpenter
- **10 Years of Service:**
Pam Fraser and Sue Vap
- **5 Years of Service:**
Becky DeSilvia, Loyd Ericson, Casey Haroian, Dave Laycock, and Jordis Shaltry
- **1,000 Hours of Service:**
Dave Laycock, Anne Reagan, and Lana Thurston
- **2,000 Hours of Service:**
Truman Stewart
- **3,000 Hours of Service:**
Ruby Weaver

Statistics for 2015 include:

- **Studio production time:**
over 1,000 hours
- **Digital books recorded:**
27 titles

- **Magazines recorded:**
32 issues
- **Digital books and magazines duplicated:** 7,681
- **Books converted from analog to digital:** 30
- **Books uploaded to BARD:** 22
- **Talking Book Service (TBS) machines cleaned and serviced:** 805
- **TBS books inspected:** 149,885
- **Jump Start folders assembled:** 12,000
- **Stickers in books for numerous literacy programs:** thousands

As impressive as these statistics are, it is the impact of these volunteer efforts on Idahoans that is truly noteworthy. Their tasks help the Commission reach underserved children and get books into their hands, 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.

Volunteer coordinator Sheila Winther said the Commission is truly grateful to the volunteers for all they do to help advance literacy and enhance library services in Idaho.

Recent Donations to the Idaho Talking Book Service

Memorial Donations

For Dorothy Bergman

Bernita Kemp
Bruce Kolasch

For Ellen Merrill Drake

Thayne and Doris Drake

For Kenneth Fallon, Sr.

Kenneth Fallon

For Connie Farmer

Marien Barton

For Terry Harris

Raymond & Mary Ellen Halverson

For Lorna Horton

Marien Barton

For Fred Riggers

Kris Provant/ HP Toastmasters

For Treva Runyon

C. S. Barthlow, Jr.

For Eldon Shaw

Lynda Dohrman

General Donations

Deborah DeThomas

Carla Eiden

Eloise Jensen

Patricia Myklebust

Pearl Zilk

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. 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!

Newsletter in Braille Coming Soon!

Connections: Talking Book Service (TBS) Newsletter is currently available in these formats:

- large print
- audio on cartridge
- downloadable from the TBS online catalog at <https://webopac.klas.com/id1aopac/>
- as a PDF or podcast from the Talking Book Service website

at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/node/9174>.

Beginning in 2017, the newsletter also will be available in Braille. Contact the TBS at 800.458.3271 or talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov to receive the newsletter in Braille or change the format in which you receive it.

Library Highlight

Residents of Lemhi County can now enjoy the newly built library building in Salmon. In addition to books, the staff in this beautiful building offers numerous resources and services that those unable to read standard print can enjoy.

Resources: The Salmon Public Library has large-print books, audio books on CD and DVD, and audio books downloadable onto Nooks and Kindles. If you do not own a Nook or Kindle, you can check one out at the library. The staff will teach you how to download titles onto these devices. The library also has high-speed Internet access that allows users to download books from BARD or other online sites. Those needing to magnify print can borrow a handheld magnifier or electronic desk magnifier to enlarge the print size. Finally, the library has a digital player that can be lent to a Talking Book Service (TBS) user whose player is not working correctly.

Services: The library has participated in the Let's Talk About It (LTAI) program for several years. Participants in this popular book discussion club read several books on a theme and meet to listen to an expert talk about the theme/author/book and then discuss it themselves. All LTAI books are available from the TBS on digital cartridge. Many are also available for download from



The new Salmon Public Library

BARD. TBS users are notified when an LTAI program is taking place at their local library.

The library also has a homebound service for users unable to get to the library. Users contact the library and request specific titles or topics they would like to read. Library staff selects books and other resources on the user's topics and sends them to the homebound user. This is a wonderful service for those unable to leave their homes as much as they would like.

The library is open:

Mon-Wed: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Fri & Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

More information about the library is available at salmonlibrary.org or 208.756.2311.

If you don't live in Lemhi County, contact your local public library to discover the wonderful resources and services available for you.

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 New Books 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.

Fire Crew: Stories from the Fire Line

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Ben Walters

Read By: Rosemary Ardinger

From spine-chilling fear of a wildfire entrapment to the simple joy of a warm meal and a chilled soda, Ben Walters tells the stories of the fires he fought and the friends he made during his years as a wildland firefighter in Idaho, the West, and Florida.

Strong language

_____ (DBC00791) 2011

9 hours 11 minutes

Isaac's Gun: An American Tale

(Adult Fiction)

Author: Dan Strawn

Read By: Sherri Boyce

Summoned to the office of her late grandfather's attorney, Megan Holcomb is presented with a stack of journals and a mysterious locked briefcase. She is informed that her grandparents gave explicit instructions that the briefcase not be opened until Megan had read through the journals in their entirety. Only when Megan finishes the journals does she understand the significance of the locked briefcase.

Idaho author

_____ (DBC00797) 2011

7 hours 30 minutes

Diary of Ann Morrison: Those Were the Days (Adult Nonfiction)
Author: Ann Morrison Read By: Margaret Dimmick
Ann Morrison's diary captures, in surprisingly personal detail, the formation and development of the famous Idaho construction company, Morrison-Knudsen. She chronicles life on the job with Harry from 1912-1949 from her unique woman's perspective.
_____ (DBC00807) 1951 16 hours

Boise Pops: A Century of Music for the People of Boise (Adult Nonfiction)
Author: J. Meredith Neil Read By: Debby Queen
This book describes 100 years of the Boise, Idaho music scene, from classical to jazz to rock and roll and all points in between. Learn about Idaho's rich musical heritage from one of Idaho's most respected historians.
_____ (DBC00813) 2013 5 hours 15 minutes

Be Your Own Hero: Senior Living Decisions Simplified (Adult Nonfiction)
Author: Catherine L. Owens Read By: Maryan Stephens
A guide to seeking the best quality of life in our aging years. This book will show you how to: make proactive, educated decisions versus reactive, crisis-driven decisions; identify the key influencers and their roles in the decision process; and define independence and what it means to you. *Idaho Author*
_____ (DBC00850) 2014 2 hours

The Midnight Colt (Juvenile Fiction)
Author: Glen Balch Read By: Maryan Stephens
Would you buy a horse named Peck O' Trouble? Peck O' Trouble is a high-strung race horse that won't settle down. Ben Darby is a boy from an Idaho ranch who sees some good in Peck and convinces his uncle Wes to loan him enough money to purchase the anxious horse. The trouble is, Peck may have to learn to walk again before he's ready to run and Ben only has one summer to train him, race him, and resell him. With a race horse that's afraid to race and a loan he can't afford to pay back, guess you could say Ben Darby is in a peck o' trouble.
_____ (DBC00859) 1952 4 hours 40 minutes

Comfort Food Gets a Vegan Makeover

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Jill Skeem

Read By: Debby Queen

This recipe book gives a simple vegan twist to the comfort foods you love.

Idaho author

_____ (DBC00864) 2012

2 hours 10 minutes

The Christmas Doctor: The True Story of Dr. J. P. Weber

(Adult Nonfiction)

Author: Tom Weber

Read By: Rosemary Ardinger

John Weber was born at Creston, Iowa, in 1888. At the age of eleven he realized he wanted to become a doctor. With only an 8th grade education, he set out to find work to save money and finish his education. This search for work took him to Montana, where he helped build the railroad to seeking work in the lumber industry in Portland, Oregon. Christmas 1904, having lost his savings to a pickpocket, John fell ill. His life was saved by a nurse, and John vowed to pay her back by helping others. John worked his way through school, and became a courageous country doctor in the wilds of Idaho. This is his true story.

_____ (DBC00865) 2013

1 hours 35 minutes

Order Books from the *What are You Reading* article on page 11

_____ (DB071808) *Dogwood*_____ (DB074216) *June Bug*_____ (DB078297) *Not in the Heart*

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.*"

Order Form continued from page 7

Magazines

Eleven audio magazines are now available on cartridge as well as available for download from BARD. The titles and their frequency are listed below.

- _____ *Audubon* (bimonthly)
- _____ *Cowboys and Indians* (monthly)
- _____ *Humpty Dumpty* (bimonthly)
- _____ *Missouri Conservationist* (monthly)
- _____ *National Geographic Traveler* (monthly)
- _____ *Oklahoma Today* (bimonthly)
- _____ *Playboy* (monthly)
- _____ *Seventeen* (monthly)
- _____ *Smithsonian* (monthly)
- _____ *Southern Living* (monthly)
- _____ *Vital Speeches of the Day* (monthly)

FAQs: Player Tips

In the last issue, features of the standard digital book player's buttons were highlighted. In this issue we'll discuss the advanced player's features. The standard and advanced players are the same size, have identical batteries and speakers, and have both battery and electrical power sources. The advanced player has the same buttons as the standard player, plus additional buttons that are useful to those reading types of materials that require access to specific sections of the book or magazine. The additional buttons are:

Info: Located on the far left-hand side of the player above the power button, this button gives basic information about the player such as battery time remaining and the current location in the book. The users' manual can also be accessed here.

Prev, Menu, and Next: These buttons work together to allow the user to navigate among different parts of the book. Different books have different navigation points, which are outlined at the beginning of the

book. For example, a book may have chapters and sub-sections within chapters while a magazine has articles and sub-sections within the articles. The **Menu** button indicates the navigation sections for each book/magazine, and the **Prev** and **Next** buttons allow navigation through these sections. For example, for a book that has chapters, the **Menu** button navigates to the chapters, and the buttons advance to the chapter to be read.

Mark: The **Mark** button adds bookmarks to the book for easier access to specific sections. Once a bookmark has been added, it can be accessed via the **Menu** button.

Note: For both the standard and advanced players, removing a cartridge from the player automatically sets a bookmark.

Both the standard and advanced players are designed to be easy to use and provide hours of listening pleasure. Contact the Talking Book Service at 800.458.3271 if you think another type of player better meets your needs.

Talking Book Service 10² Club

Centenarians joining the 10² (Ten Squared) Club are:

Lydia Merrill, Boise, Born 08/15/1915

Dolores M. Byram, Boise, Born 07/29/1916

Salvatore Breonte, Eagle, Born 08/04/1916



Spy Stories

Usually a mixture of suspense, adventure, and mystery, spies and spy stories have been around for years. Although not for everyone, we have a variety of spy stories for all age groups and reading levels. Times range from historical to current, and settings are all over the world.

Besides some of the better known spy/thriller authors like Ian Fleming with his James Bond–007 series or John Le Carre’s Smileys people, we also have spy stories

and series by Alex Berenson (current time), Dale Brown (Cold War), William F. Buckley (Cold War), Ally Carter (young adult readers), Alan Furst (pre-early World War II around Europe), Dan Gutman (juvenile readers), and Anthony Horowitz (young adult).

There are also numerous non-fiction books from various wars and CIA personnel, and true stories about Russian spies, a U-2 pilot, and Revolutionary heroes.

BARD Updates

Improvements continue to be made to BARD. Below are the most recent:

Apps Updated: The National Library Service (NLS) recently released updated apps for both iOS and Android devices. iOS version 1.1.1 fixes several bugs in the application. Android version 1.0.3 adds the sleep timer to the Now Reading screen, supports Android Marshmallow, and fixes several bugs. In addition, the play screen is optimized for tablets. As in the past, the upgrade requires Android 4.1 or later. For users with Android version 5.0, the app now responds to wired and Bluetooth headphone controls. Links to both updates are accessible from BARD’s main page.

Upcoming: NLS is developing the Media Manager app. This app will sync a patron’s reading across

devices to allow seamless access to what is being read—regardless of the device. The Media Manager will also provide better BARD search capabilities.

Support: There are several avenues for help with BARD-related problems in addition to Talking Book Service (TBS) staff.

1. BARD Support: This e-mail based list is a closed, one-way list to which NLS will occasionally post information of interest to BARD users.
2. BARD Talk: An online email community for BARD users, this Yahoo Group is moderated by BARD users.

Contact TBS at 800.458.3271 or talkingbooks@libraries.idaho.gov to subscribe to either of these groups.

What Are You Reading?

by Sue Robinson, Customer Service Representative

Dogwood by Chris Fabry is a story I *almost* quit reading because I was impatient and the author was taking too long to introduce the cast of characters. Because it was an author whose books I had read and loved before, I listened a little longer. Boy am I glad I did!!

In this story Will Hatfield returns to Dogwood, West Virginia, after twelve years in prison, to find that the townspeople still hate him and his former sweetheart is taken. I was impressed from the beginning with the good character and positive value system of this farm boy and wanted everything, or something, to go right for him. Although I picked up hints along the way and had some expectation about the end, I was not prepared for the amazing twist and surprise ending!

Do you remember all those characters I told you about at the beginning? They, too, weave threads of interesting stories into the plot line. The author pulls it all together into a satisfying end that has compelled me to ponder the themes and reevaluate my feelings about the people and events of this story.

In the front-matter of this book

the author quotes Jackson Browne, "I think that life is full of pain. It's painful for everybody. Growing is painful. But I think the only way through it is through it and anything that helps is a blessing." Since we all have to go through it, let's all be a blessing to one another!

Fabry's book won a Christy Award. This award is designed to nurture and encourage creativity and quality in the writing and publishing of fiction from a diversity of genres, written from a Christian world view. I've never read one I didn't like!

Two other Fabry books I have loved are *June Bug*, about a 9-year old girl who sees her own face on a missing person poster in Wal-Mart, and *Not in the Heart* about a gambling-addicted journalist trying to save his son, who needs an organ transplant. Both are Christy Award winners.

Dogwood
(DB071808) Adult Fiction
June Bug
(DB074216) Adult Fiction
Not in the Heart
(DB078297) Adult Fiction

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

Walker Recognized at NFB Conference

Regional Librarian Sue Walker received the first "Jan and Harry Gawith Award" at the National Federation of the Blind's Idaho state chapter meeting in April. Jan and Harry Gawith are long-time members and active supporters of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) at both the state and national levels. Sue was honored to be recognized in the company of such distinguished people. The plaque presented to Sue read, in part: "You have asked for our advice and taken it. You have shared in our experiences and our achievements. You are our Friend!"



In addition to the plaque, Sue also received a copy of a recently published book: *The Power of Love: How Kenneth Jernigan Changed the World for the Blind*, a compilation of remembrances about Kenneth Jernigan, activist for the blind. The book was edited by Idahoan Ramona Walhof and contains several submissions by Idaho residents whose lives Mr. Jernigan changed.