



Celebrating Barbara Penegor



At the end of July, we here at the Kentucky Talking Book Library said goodbye to Branch Manager **Barbara Penegor** after 25 years of service here at KTBL. Barbara started as a librarian in 1999 and became Branch Manager in 2005.

"During my time at KTBL we have experienced quite a few changes: closing two subregional libraries, the transition from cassette to digital talking books, the release of BARD and BARD Mobile, testing and adopting WebReads, Duplication on Demand, eReaders, and recently, distributing magazines on DoD," Barbara said.

"I have enjoyed working with our appreciative patrons across the commonwealth, my supportive management, dedicated co-workers, and my NLS network colleagues, many of whom I consider friends," Barbara added. "This has been a satisfying and rewarding career, and my only regret is that I didn't start here sooner."

However, Barbara is only slowing down a little bit in her retirement!

"I am now ready for a new phase of my life, with a better schedule and fewer meetings 😊," Barbara said. "I have a variety of things planned to fill my time, including some home remodeling, increased travel—and potentially volunteering in the KTBL recording studio. I know our patrons will be in good hands as the KTBL staff continues to provide the excellent service all have come to expect. Thank you everyone!!!"

Photo caption: Barbara Penegor, wearing a pink flowered dress with a pink cardigan on top, a tiara that says "RETIREE," and a pink sash that says "I'm Retired!" holds up a plastic, light-up letter B while leaning on a large pillar in the KDLA lobby at her retirement party.

Welcoming Dustin Jones



The Kentucky Talking Book Library is happy to introduce **Dustin Jones**—our new Studio Manager who started on June 17. Dustin is responsible for working with our volunteers to ensure the quality of our recorded Kentucky books, as well as maintaining our studio equipment.

Dustin grew up in Columbia, Kentucky and majored in Music Technology at Transylvania University. Following

graduation, he interned as an audio engineer across the pond in Edinburgh, Scotland while continuing his education.

Dustin moved back to Kentucky where studio jobs in Lexington led him to tour the nation as a broadcast engineer with the SEC, ESPN, and SiriusXM for several years before taking a position as the audio and event lead for AppHarvest. Dustin decided to take a break from the tour life following his time at AppHarvest, which led him to join our team.

“I am elated at the opportunity to use my skills to help make a difference in people’s lives,” Dustin said. “It is a rarity in the production world to be able to find a position where this is achieved, so this is an amazing opportunity that I am thankful for.”

In his free time, Dustin enjoys deejaying and managing electronic and dance music acts in the Lexington area.

Photo caption: Dustin Jones, wearing a black undershirt and an unbuttoned gray button-up shirt, poses in front of shelves of braille books at the Kentucky Talking Book Library. Dustin, who has long brown hair and a close-trimmed brown beard is smiling at the camera.

Kentucky Humanities 2024 “Kentucky Reads” Book Available Soon

Scissors, Paper, Rock: A Novel by Kentucky author Fenton Johnson was chosen by Kentucky Humanities as their 2024 Kentucky Reads selection. The novel will serve as a focal point for community-wide book discussions that promote a shared literary experience and celebrate the diverse voices and stories that shape Kentucky’s rich cultural landscape. To make sure that our patrons can take part in community discussions, we recorded it in our studio in Frankfort. It will soon be available for download on BARD and on cartridge.

DBC 29414 | *Scissors, Paper, Rock: A Novel* by Fenton Johnson.

Along with his siblings, Raphael Hardin left his childhood home in rural Kentucky. Grappling with an AIDS diagnosis, he returns to care for his dying father. Told from the perspectives of Raphael, his family, and their lifelong neighbor, Fenton Johnson's landmark novel reveals the blood struggles and binding loves of a broken family made whole. Selected as the 2024 Kentucky Reads title. Contains some strong language and descriptions of sex. 2016. Narrated by Evan Hatter. 7 hours and 42 minutes.

BARD Express Now Plays Audiobooks on PC!

An exciting new feature is available for those who use BARD Express to download books and magazines on their Windows-based computer. As of the latest update, you can now listen to books you've downloaded from BARD right on your PC! Much like BARD Mobile, the BARD Express Player lets you adjust narration speed, jump to navigation points such as chapter or articles, create bookmarks and much more. Make sure you've updated to version 3.0.0.7 to enable this feature.

Please Practice Patience!

Due to building renovations and short staffing, there may be times where KTBL staff members are not available. Please leave us a detailed message including your name and phone number. If you are calling to request books, please leave the title, author and/or book numbers. We will add them to your list and only call back if we need more information.

Audio Newsletters

A reminder that when you receive the latest issue of the newsletter is dependent upon how quickly you return books. If you have cartridges that are overdue, you will not get your newsletter in a timely manner! Cartridges are only checked out for 30 days at a time, so please get them back to us promptly.

Braille Magazine Updates

NLS will no longer be producing the braille magazines *Dell Crosswords* and *Interweave*. These magazines are being replaced by magazines on the same topics: *Crossword Extravaganza* and *Laine*. Five new braille magazines are being added to the NLS collection. NLS expects for the first issues to be available by late fall.

- **Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine**
- **Animal Wellness Magazine**
- **Crossword Extravaganza**
- **Laine**
- **Piano Technical Journal**



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Highlighting Appalachia and Appalachian Authors

DB 106989 | *Twilight in Hazard* by Alan Maimon

A journalist explores life in rural Kentucky, surprised by what he describes as the vice grip of ecological devastation and a corporate-made opioid epidemic. While reporting on intense religious allegiances, bitter political rivalries, and faltering attempts to emerge from a century-long coal-based economy, Maimon seeks the truth behind the rumors. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

DBC 15905 | *What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia* by Elizabeth Catte

After the presidential election of 2016 and the success of *Hillbilly Elegy*, Appalachia was portrayed as the epicenter of white woe. It is not as homogeneous as we have been led to believe, and is not the only place where its problems occur. The author points out who benefits from painting the region according to stereotypes, and celebrates lives, actions, and legacies of those ignored by mass media coverage. 2018. *Recorded in the KTBL Studio.*

DBC 05633 | *Uneven Ground: Appalachia since 1945* by Ronald B. Eller

Appalachia had been perceived as backward since the Civil War. After WWII the government played a larger part in economic development to bring "progress" to the area. The result was exploitation of the region's natural resources, while failing to provide a better life for residents. The mistakes made then provide insight into the challenges that confront contemporary Appalachia today. 2008. *Recorded in the KTBL Studio.*

DBC 17555 | *Talking Appalachian: Voice, Identity, and Community* edited by Amy D. Clark and Nancy M. Hayward

People from Appalachia have long been labeled as ignorant "hillbillies" because of the way they speak. The editors have collected works that examine this speech and show that it is a reflection of a rich heritage that should be preserved instead of replaced with standard English. It includes academic studies, personal essays by Appalachian writers, and examples of Appalachian dialect used in literature. Featured authors include George Ella Lyon, Silas House, Lee Smith, Jane Hicks, Denise Giardina, Ron Rash, Rita Quillen, Crystal Wilkinson, and Anne Shelby. 2013. Adult. *Recorded in the KTBL Studio.*

DB 95655 | *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy* edited by Anthony Harkins and Meredith McCarroll

The editors respond critically to the book *Hillbilly Elegy* (DB 85796) and provide perspective from Appalachians of varied backgrounds through a blend of scholarship, prose, poetry, and more. Create a portrait of a region that is culturally rich but economically distressed and defies overly simplistic description. Strong language. 2019.

DB 28002 | *Fair and Tender Ladies* by Lee Smith

Epistolary novel of Virginia's Appalachia with heroine Ivy Rowe. Set around 1900 and written with quaint misspellings and in the vernacular of southern speech. Ivy's letters reflect the harsh poverty of farm life. Bestseller 1988.

DBC 05599 | *River of Earth* by James Still

First published in 1940, this has become a classic of Kentucky and Appalachian literature. Seen through the eyes of a young boy, it chronicles three years in the lives of his family as they struggle to make a living after the local mine closes. There is hunger and poverty, but also joy and a love of the land. 1978. *Recorded in the KTBL Studio.*

DB 55668 | *Clay's Quilt* by Silas House

Clay Sizemore was raised by relatives in the hollers of Free Creek, Crow County, Kentucky, after his mother was murdered. Now a coal miner, Clay falls in love and marries Alma, a divorced fiddler. Tragedy interferes with their happiness. Some violence and some strong language. 2001.

DBC 15946 | *Trampoline: An Illustrated Novel* by Robert Gipe

Fifteen-year-old Dawn Jewell drifts aimlessly through her Eastern KY community drinking, fighting, skipping school, and stealing. She is angry that she has nothing going for her except more of the same in her chaotic, lawless, drug-addicted family. She longs for a "normal" life, but makes self-destructive choices. When she unwittingly becomes a mountaintop removal activist and falls for a voice on the radio, she might have a chance at something more. Contains strong language and some violence. 2015. *Recorded in the KTBL Studio.*

DB 25379 | *The Dollmaker* by Harriette Arnow

A Kentucky countrywoman has a talent and love for whittling small objects out of wood, but the war forces her to give it up and accompany her husband to a new job in Detroit. 1959.

Book Selections

All of the books in this newsletter are available for download on BARD. If you would like to request any of these books on cartridge, please contact us at 800-372-2968 (toll-free) or 502-564-5791 (local), or email us at KTBL.Mail@ky.gov.

KTBL Book Club

Join our monthly book club meetings to share how you liked (or did not like) that month's book selection. We meet at 3:30 Eastern Time on the third Tuesday of each month. You do not have to talk—you can simply listen to the discussion. You may even prefer to read the books and skip the meetings altogether. Let us know if you wish to be added to our list for email reminders announcing upcoming book selections and meeting information.

New Kentucky Books

DBC 17601 | *Railsplitter: Reflections on the Art of Poetry Composed in the Posthumous Voice of Honest Abe Lincoln* by Maurice Manning

Kentucky poet Manning's latest collection is told in the imagined voice of Abraham Lincoln, illustrating how poetry guided and shaped the President while he was leading a divided nation. These poems are rich in both rural folklore and literary allusions, and range from philosophical to comical. They are not presented in chronological order but appear randomly, the way memories do to imagine a new lore comprised of buzzard feather quills, horse treats in a top hat, and finally, a fateful bullet. 2019. Adult.

DBC 17650 | *The Night Mark* by Tiffany Reisz

"She has nothing to live for in the present, but there may be something worth dying for in the past." It has been 4 years since her husband died, but Faye Barlow cannot escape her grief. After accepting a photography job in South Carolina, she is drawn to a crumbling old lighthouse on Bride Island where a mysterious drowning occurred in 1921. When Faye is washed out to sea, she is transported back to 1921 when the lighthouse keeper is still alive--and closely resembles her deceased husband. 2017. Adult. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Strong language.

DBC 17605 | *Elkhorn: Evolution of a Kentucky Landscape* by Richard Taylor

When former Kentucky Poet Laureate Richard Taylor purchased a historic house close to the Elkhorn Creek near Frankfort, it led to his interest in the area's history and culture, and the Elkhorn became a source of inspiration for his writing. Flowing across four counties in Central Kentucky, Elkhorn Creek is the second largest tributary of the Kentucky River. Taylor provides a glimpse into the economic, social, and cultural transformation of Kentucky from wilderness to its current landscape by exploring both the natural history and inhabitants of the Elkhorn Creek valley. 2018. Adult.

DBC 17559 | *The War of 1812 in the West: From Fort Detroit to New Orleans* by David Kirkpatrick

The War of 1812 is often referred to as the forgotten war. What is most remembered is the burning of Washington and the defense of Ft. McHenry commemorated in the national anthem. While the War in the West received less attention than the Eastern front, the author argues that the West was not a secondary theatre. In addition to

military and social history, he chronicles the contributions of Kentucky, relates the stories of lesser-known citizens who participated, and describes the significant long-term repercussions of the war. 2019. Adult.

DBC 17669 | *A Ghostly Demise: A Ghostly Southern Mystery* by Tonya Kappes
Emma Lee Raines, an undertaker in Sleepy Hollow, Kentucky, is visited by the ghost of her friend's deadbeat dad. The ghost tells her that he was murdered, and Emma Lee sets out to find his killer. Her investigation leads her to a carnival, where she must face a killer who is not clowning around. 2015. Adult.

DBC 15990 | *And One Last Thing...* by Molly Harper
Lacey Terwilliger's life seems perfect from the outside, but when her husband's affair is exposed by a mistakenly delivered floral arrangement, everything comes crashing down around her. When Lacey's humiliation and anger lead her to impulsively expose the affair in her husband's company newsletter, she's forced to flee to her family's lake cabin until the gossip dies down. Some time alone might be just what she needs, but her aggravating neighbor Monroe doesn't make that easy. 2010. Adult. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Some strong language.

DBC 17633 | *Freak of the Week* by Ann H. Gabhart
Clay Ashby has a little problem. He limps. That makes him feel like a lopsided giraffe--especially after Nikki Hendricks, the most popular girl in sixth grade, starts making up rhymes about his limp that has the other kids laughing at him. But then he meets up with an old man trying the impossible in spite of disabilities ten times worse than Clay's. When Clay joins a baseball team, Old Dan helps Clay believe in his abilities and shows him heart matters more than looks. But Nikki, on the team that always wins, is still ready with her rhymes. Will a ballgame for the championship settle it all? 2016. For grades 4-7.

DBC 17643 | *Three Ways to Disappear* by Katy Yocom
Sarah and Quinn DeV Vaughan grew up in India, but their mother moved them back to Louisville after their brother died. Quinn is an artist, and is dealing with her spendthrift mother and a child with a serious medical condition. Sarah has recently given up her job as a globetrotting journalist and moved to India, where she works to save endangered tigers. Quinn finds her marriage is troubled, while Sarah becomes involved in a risky relationship. Both still deal with the memories of their early life in India; both the tragic and the beautiful. 2019. Descriptions of sex. Some strong language. Adult.

Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
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Free Matter for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped
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