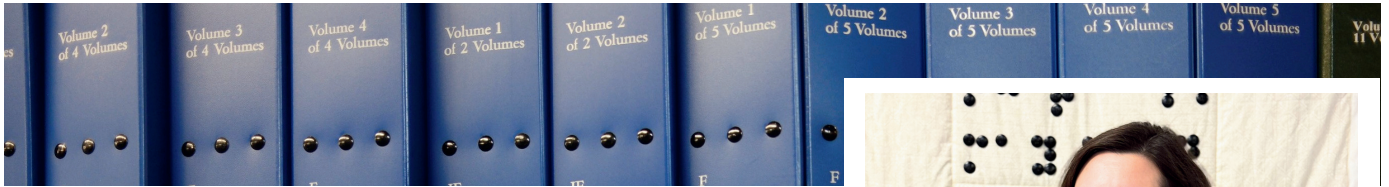




KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY **NEWSLETTER**

Winter 2024-25

KTBL.KY.GOV • 800-372-2968 • 502-564-5791 • KTBL.MAIL@KY.GOV



JENNY SMITH NAMED KTBL BRANCH MANAGER

January 2nd marked a homecoming at the Kentucky Talking Book Library. **Jenny Smith** was selected as the KTBL Branch Manager, succeeding Barbara Penegor, who retired last August.

Originally from Wisconsin, Jenny moved to Kentucky in 2003. She received her Masters of Library Science from the University of Kentucky in 2006 and shortly after joined KTBL as a librarian! After five years, she moved to a position in the KDLA Field Services division.

In 2012, Jenny joined the Lexington Public Library management team, where she managed the Beaumont, Central, Northside, and Marksby Branches.

Jenny says she is excited to once again work with talking book patrons and staff.

Jenny and her spouse have a six-year-old son who loves to read and a cat named Holly. She spends her free time with her family, reading, swimming, going on adventures, and visiting the Smoky Mountains as much as possible.

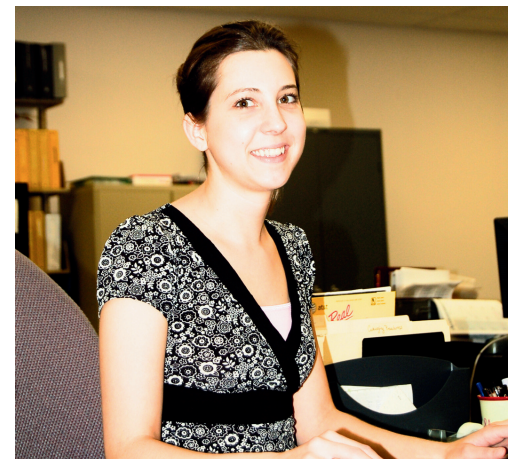


Photo Caption Above: Jenny Smith standing in front of KTBL's "That All May Read" quilt in the KTBL office. Jenny is wearing a red sweater and smiling.

Below: A younger Jenny at her desk in the KTBL office in August 2007.

KTBL WELCOMES FRANK X WALKER

In October 2024, KTBL was honored to welcome former Kentucky Poet Laureate and current University of Kentucky professor Frank X Walker to narrate his seminal work *Affrilachia* in our studio.

Walker coined the term “Affrilachia,” which is now widely used to refer to the cultural contributions of African American authors, writers, and musicians in Appalachia. He co-founded The Affrilachian Poets and was the founding editor of “pluck! The Journal of Affrilachian Arts & Culture.” In 2013, he was the first African American to be named Kentucky’s Poet Laureate.

We appreciate Frank taking time out of his busy schedule to come in and provide us with the authoritative voice for this important work.

Affrilachia is now available for digital download on BARD and through the mail on cartridge. It will also soon be available in braille from NLS.



Photo Caption Above: Frank X Walker sitting backwards in a chair in the lobby of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

Middle: Frank X Walker sits inside a recording booth while recording *Affrilachia* for the Kentucky Talking Book Library.

Left: Frank X Walker gestures inside a recording booth while recording *Affrilachia* for the Kentucky Talking Book Library.



KENTUCKY REPRESENTED AT NLS CONFERENCE



Photo Caption Above: KTBL Information Officer Evan Hatter stands in front of the United States Capitol Building. The sun shines behind the Capitol Dome. Evan is smiling, wearing a dark blue polo style shirt and white undershirt.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky was well represented at September's NLS National Conference of Librarians Who Serve Blind and Print Disabled Individuals (NLS Conference). The theme was "Growth in Action: Advancing Library Service Through Community Partnerships."

KTBL Information Officer Evan Hatter attended the conference in Washington, DC along with approximately 200 NLS network library staff from across the country.

He attended three days of sessions with NLS administration, regional consultants, and various NLS officers to get up to speed on the latest and greatest that NLS has to offer to their patrons. This included programs from all NLS regions and sessions about how best to serve our patrons!

Evan also represented Kentucky at the Southern Conference meeting where the conference voted for new representatives for NLS committees and a new Secretary to succeed our recently retired manager Barbara Penegor.

Evan said he was excited to meet with his counterparts from throughout the country and returned to KTBL with plenty of ideas to serve our patrons better!



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

NLS REQUIRING PARENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR MINORS

In order to bring their policies in line with the Library of Congress, NLS now requires parental acknowledgement forms. Since October 1, all new patrons under the age of 18 have required a signed parental acknowledgement form. Anyone who is under the age of 18 who did not have a parental acknowledgement on file by January 1, 2025 had their accounts suspended. If you have any questions, send us an email at ktbl.mail@ky.gov. You can also call us at 800-372-2968 or 502-564-5791.

COLLECTIONS CONNECTIONS FROM NLS

With all of the books and magazines available from NLS, it can be hard to know where to start when searching. *Collections Connections*, a free email newsletter from the NLS Collection Development staff, can help! Each month it highlights fiction and nonfiction titles focused on a timely theme. To sign up, send your name and email address to the Collections Connections team at connections@loc.gov. You can unsubscribe yourself from the list at any time.

NEW INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE QUARTERLY

NLS continues to add more international language books to the catalog than ever before. This latest edition of *International Language Quarterly* includes 115 books in six different languages, including:

- New electronic Spanish braille from Puerto Rico
- Spanish and bilingual print/braille children's books
- New French braille from Quebec and France, encoded for US devices
- Many popular talking books in French, German, Italian, and Spanish

You can find the latest and all previous issues of *ILQ* online at www.loc.gov/nls/ilq.

A REMINDER ABOUT BRAILLE ORDER FORMS

A quick reminder for those who send in braille *Talking Book Topics* or *Braille Book Review* order forms. If you send us a braille order form, if possible, follow up with a phone call or have someone transcribe the titles so that we may serve you better and in a more timely manner.



Photo Caption: The KTBL Book Club logo

KTBL hosts a monthly virtual book club on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm Eastern Time. Books are selected by KTBL staff members and we take suggestions from regular book club attendees! Books have already been selected through the early part of 2025.

February 18, 2025

DB 103191, BR 24059 | People We Meet on Vacation
by Emily Henry | Narrated by Julia Whelan

Travel writer Poppy and her friend Alex could not be more different, but they bonded on a road trip home from college and afterwards took annual vacations together. Unfortunately, their last vacation ruined everything between them. Two years later Poppy talks Alex into one more trip together. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

March 18, 2025

DB 118199 | The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year
Written and Narrated by Margaret Renkl

"In *The Comfort of Crows*, Margaret Renkl presents a literary devotional: fifty-two chapters that follow the creatures and plants in her backyard over the course of a year. As we move through the seasons -- from a crow spied on New Year's Day, its resourcefulness and sense of community setting a theme for the year, to the lingering bluebirds of December, revisiting the nest box they used in spring -- what develops is a portrait of joy and grief: joy in the ongoing pleasures of the natural world, and grief over winters that end too soon and songbirds that grow fewer and fewer. Along the way, we also glimpse the changing rhythms of a human life." -- Provided by publisher.

April 15, 2025

DBC 15911 | Southernmost

by Silas House | Narrated by Marvin Weinberger in the KTBL Studio

Years ago, Asher Sharp turned away from his brother because Luke was gay, and Asher was a rural Tennessee evangelical preacher. After preaching acceptance to his conservative congregation, Asher is accused of having a mental breakdown, is fired from his church, and his intolerant wife seeks full custody of their nine-year-old son. Asher cannot bear the thought of losing Justin, so he takes him and flees to Key West in search of his brother. 2018. Some strong language.

Dates for the rest of 2025 are:

- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Book titles for these meetings will be provided later this year.

If you would like any of these books, or would like to join the virtual KTBL Book Club, call 800-372-2968, 502-564-5791 or email KTBL.Mail@ky.gov

WHAT IS OCLC?

Have you ever heard the letters “OCLC” at the end of a book description and wondered what it meant?



Photo Caption: The OCLC logo

In 1967 when OCLC was founded, the letters stood for **O**hio **C**ollege **L**ibrary **C**enter. As the organization grew, OCLC came to stand for **O**nline **C**omputer **L**ibrary **C**enter. Today, the organization is simply known as **OCLC** and it provides member libraries with a variety of programs, services, and resources that help libraries function. This can include cataloging information like book summaries, which is why it sometimes appears in our book descriptions.

DBC29437 | Affrilachia

written and narrated by Frank X Walker

A milestone book of poetry at the intersection of Appalachian and African American literature. In this pathbreaking debut collection, poet Frank X Walker tells the story of growing up young, Black, artistic, and male in one of America's most misunderstood geographical regions. As a proud Kentucky native, Walker created the word "Affrilachia" to render visible the unique intersectional experience of African Americans living in the rural and Appalachian South. Since its publication in 2000, Affrilachia has seen wide classroom use, and is recognized as one of the foundational works of the Affrilachian Poets, a community of writers offering new ways to think about diversity in the Appalachian region and beyond. Strong language. Estimated reading time: 58 minutes.

DBC17588 | Sir Barton and the Making of the Triple Crown

by Jennifer S. Kelly | Narrated by Jean Anne Webb

Born in 1916, at Hamburg Place in Lexington KY, chestnut colt 187-16 had "the look of eagles" that defines great thoroughbreds. Though plagued with a chronic hoof condition, Sir Barton became the first horse to win what later became known as racing's Triple Crown. He was retired to stud after he lost a famous showdown with rival Man o' War, but that was not the end of his story. Covers the racing personalities of the day and the impact Sir Barton had on the sport. Adult. Estimated reading time: 9 hours, 26 minutes.

**Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602**

**Free Matter for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped
DMM 703.5**

