



Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter March 2020

A New Voice at KTBL

You may have heard a new voice on the line when calling KTBL. **Jeff Barnes** joined us in November as our Administrative Specialist. He replaced Devon Stivers, who moved to a new position here at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. In addition to answering the phone, Jeff takes care of our mail, our files, and works in the State Library circulating boxes of large print and audio books, and suitcases full of book discussion kits, to KY public libraries.

Jeff is a native of Franklin County and is an accomplished musician and frontman for his own group *The Jeff Barnes Band*. He sings and plays guitar, and enjoys writing his own lyrics and music. The band has recorded six albums and plays at various venues in the Central Kentucky area. Jeff enjoys working with the Talking Books team and is looking forward to getting to know our patrons.

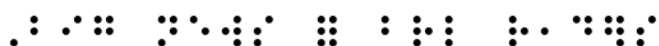


We Are Counting on You

It's time for the **2020 US Census** and your participation is important. Census results play a large part in determining how the government allocates hundreds of billions of dollars for services that you and your community may rely on every day. Examples include Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, libraries, schools, and public transportation. Those who are blind or disabled historically have been undercounted. We want all our patrons to be counted and have a chance to shape their future.

Soon households across the country will receive invitations to respond to the 2020 census. For the first time, you will have three ways to respond: online, by phone, or by mail. It should only take about 10 minutes to complete. The census questionnaire will not be available in braille, but people who are blind may take advantage of the accessible online or toll-free phone-in option. In May, census workers will begin visiting the homes of those who have not responded to collect information in person. All the information you share is protected by law and cannot be used against you. The 2020 Census website has lots of information at <https://2020census.gov/>, or visit this site to see a large print guide to the 2020 census:

https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/languages/guides/Large_Print-Guide.pdf



Big News for Braille Readers

The Kentucky Talking Book Library has been selected by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) to participate in a pilot project to test a new **NLS braille eReader**. This is a refreshable braille device that will allow users to receive digital braille books on a cartridge similar to those used for talking books. Imagine holding one or more complete braille books in the palm of your hand instead of taking up a lot of space in your home. You won't have to search multiple containers for the next volume, and KTBL will be able to provide all braille books all the time, instead of only those we have on our shelves.

NLS will randomly select approximately 224 KTBL braille patrons to receive and test this new device. (Please do not call to request one.) This pilot is scheduled to start in June and last for six months. Don't worry if you have not used a refreshable braille device before—we want to test all levels of users. Among the goals of the pilot are to test distribution processes, gather data on technical support requirements, document patron feedback on device functionality, and test content delivery/discoverability of NLS-produced digital braille.

We are excited to be a part of this project, and hope you will be too. The NLS Braille eReader Pilot Project will lay the groundwork for national distribution of braille eReaders, which will increase access to digital braille materials, promote braille literacy, and provide access to tens of thousands of braille titles in digital format, supporting the NLS mission statement of assuring that *all* may read.

Let's Talk About It

Have you ever read a book that was so good you just had to talk about it with someone? Better yet, someone who has read the same book? The Talking Book Library wants to do just that. We are planning to start a **KTBL book club** where members would all read the same book, then call a toll-free number to discuss it together. Participants will meet by phone 2-3 times a year with a KTBL librarian leading the discussion. The club will read a variety of books and may introduce you to titles you had not considered reading before. It will also introduce you to a new group of braille and talking book readers. We do not have any dates or books selected yet, but if you are interested, please contact KTBL at 800-372-2968 or ktbl.mail@ky.gov to have us put your name on the list of potential members. We will mail or email details to you later.

Give a Little Bit

Whether you want a large tax deduction or just want to show a little appreciation, KTBL happily accepts donations. We use these funds to purchase supplies, equipment, books for our recording studio, and to produce our newsletter. Wish you could make a donation but cannot afford it? Break it up and send a little at a time. Don't need any Christmas, birthday, or anniversary gifts? Name KTBL as a recipient of donations in lieu of gifts. You can even make donations in memory of a loved one or include us in your estate planning. No amount is too small—just don't send cash in the mail. We will send a letter of thanks and acknowledgement that you can use for tax reporting.

To contribute, make checks payable to the Kentucky Talking Book Library and mail to:

Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
Frankfort KY 40602

We extend our thanks to everyone who donated to KTBL in 2019. We especially want to thank the Kentucky Council of the Blind and the Tri-State Library Users for sponsoring this and the previous two issues of our newsletter. Their generosity has allowed us to have it printed at the state government print shop instead of wearing out our printer (and staff) printing and folding it here.

Like Mother, Like Daughter

Introducing our first mother-daughter recording team—**Lane and Jill Jacobs!** They began volunteering together in October, with Lane as the narrator and Jill working as the monitor. However, Lane’s work with Talking Books goes back further. Years ago, she worked as a copywriter for a radio station. She also did voice work for commercials and thought narrating Talking Books would be a good way to keep her skills up. As Lane Butler, she recorded more than 30 books back in the days of reel-to-reel recording before stopping to raise her family.

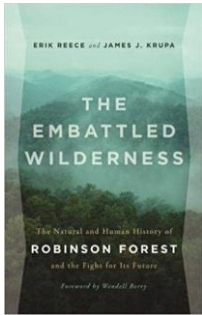
Fast forward to 2019—As a junior in high school, Jill was looking for a way to become more involved in the community. She enjoyed reading, so when Lane suggested Talking Books, she felt it was a good match. Lane accompanied Jill to apply at KTBL. Upon hearing of her past experience, Studio Manager Brian suggested they both work together. It was a good suggestion and they have completed two books so far.

Both are avid readers; Jill’s favorite book is *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak (DB 62431, BR 17409) and Lane’s is *To Kill a Mockingbird* (DB 77672, BR 12850). Jill is on her high school golf and archery teams. As if that weren’t enough, she also dances en pointe ballet, jazz, and tap. Lane serves as the Historian for her chapter of the DAR and participates in fundraising for Jill’s golf and archery teams. She also serves as a board member for the Lebanon Community Cemetery (Frankfort), where her family is buried. We hope they will continue working together for a long time making books accessible for you to read.



Left: Jill operates recording software outside the booth while Lane narrates from within. Right: Jill Jacobs (left) stands with mom, Lane (right).

Staff Picks



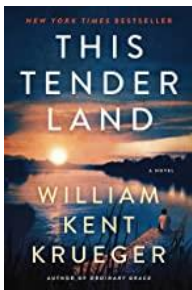
Brian, Recording Studio Manager—**DBC 08465 The Embattled Wilderness: The Natural and Human History of Robinson Forest and the Fight for Its Future** by Erik Reese and James J. Krupa

I didn't know about Eastern Kentucky's Robinson Forest until we recorded this book. I enjoyed learning about it and the wildlife that calls it home, especially those that live in its streams.



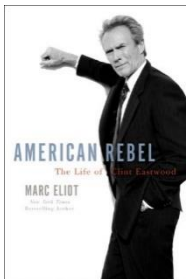
Michael, Electronic Tech—**DB 56777 Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith** by Jon Krakauer

This book takes readers inside America's isolated Mormon Fundamentalist communities. It is a page-turner. Even if you think the subject matter wouldn't interest you, you won't be able to put it down.



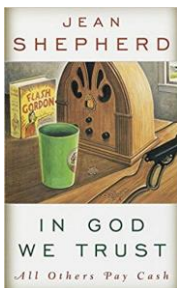
Janet, Librarian—**DB 96864 This Tender Land** by William Kent Krueger

During the Great Depression, four children escape a harsh Indian school in Minnesota and travel to freedom in a canoe, encountering struggling farmers, a traveling faith healer, displaced families, and other drifters. It has been compared to **DB 92245 Where the Crawdads Sing**.



Gary, Administrative Specialist, Circulation—**DB 70691, BR 18823 American Rebel: The Life of Clint Eastwood** by Marc Eliot

Film historian's biography of the academy award-winning actor, producer, and director. Discusses his five decades of work, his personal life, and his stint as mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California.



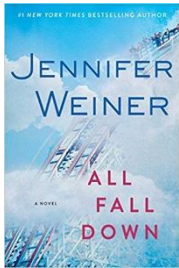
Barbara, Branch Manager—**DB 48446 In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash** by Jean Shepherd

If you like the movie *A Christmas Story*, you will want to read this collection of humorous, autobiographical tales by the same writer. Ralph visits childhood friend Flick's bar, and they reminisce about growing up in their Northern Indiana mill town during the 30s and 40s.



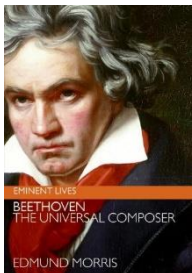
Tracey, Librarian—**DB 72412, BR 20223 The Lost Hero: The Heroes of Olympus, Book 1** by Rick Riordan

I've always loved the way Rick Riordan plays with mythology in his fantasy novels. This series is a slightly more mature follow up to the Percy Jackson series; both were inspired by Greek Mythology. It's a lot of fun for kids or adults.



Susan, Librarian—**DB 79561 All Fall Down** by Jennifer Weiner

I always enjoy Jennifer Weiner's books when I'm the mood for Women's Fiction that deals with contemporary issues. This darkly humorous bestseller didn't fail to keep me turning the pages, rooting for Allison as she travels down the dark path of drug addiction and recovery.



Jeff, Administrative Specialist—**BR 16487 Beethoven: The Universal Composer** by Edmund Morris

I am listening to the commercial audio book on CD while packing boxes of books. I have never been a big reader, but as a musician, I am fascinated by the fact that he wrote his best music after he lost his hearing.

Reminders

Stay Active—Remember; you must receive and return, or download, at least one book every 6 months in order to keep your Kentucky Talking Book Library account active. Extended inactivity may result in cancellation of your account, including your BARD or audio magazine service. Let us know if you need to change your address or put your service on hold for up to 6 months. If you need to stop service for more than 6 months, please notify us and return the player and any items on loan. We can restart your service when you are ready.

BARD—You can download braille and talking books any time of day or night for instant access. You can use your own smartphone or tablet with BARD Mobile, or use your computer to download books to play on your Talking Book player or purchased device. Apply to download at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/KY1A/ApplicationInstructions.html>. If you go 6 months without downloading anything from BARD, your account will automatically be suspended for inactivity. If this happens, call us at KTBL to reactivate it. It will not affect any KTBL book circulation you receive by mail.

Magazines—NLS produces about 80 audio and braille magazines available by mail subscription or by download from BARD. Contact KTBL to receive a listing or to subscribe. NLS depends on returned cartridges to reuse for future issues, so remember to read and return audio magazines promptly. Your account will automatically be marked delinquent if you accrue more than 2 overdue magazines. You will not receive any more issues until at least one magazine cartridge has been returned. It will not affect your KTBL book circulation.

NLS Music Service--The NLS music collection includes braille and large-print musical scores, recorded instructional materials, and recorded materials about music and musicians. All materials are circulated postage free, and some digital audio and ebraille materials are available for download over the Internet. Anyone with a KTBL account is automatically eligible for NLS Music Services. This service is available directly from NLS; call 1-800-424-8567 or email nlsm@loc.gov to start.

Catalogs—The most popular NLS magazine subscription is the ***Talking Book Topics*** catalog. If you would like to choose your own books from a list of new releases, contact us to subscribe to *Talking Books Topics* in large print or audio, or ***Braille Book Review*** in braille. Both contain a brief description of new books, including whether it is unrated or has any language, violence, or sexual content. You can use the included order forms, call, email, or mail a written list of the books you would like to read.

Younger Readers—if you, your child, or your student is receiving materials that are too young, please contact us to update the reading interests on the account. We will not automatically update juvenile accounts according to age, as some readers prefer to read at a certain grade level. For example, if a patron was reading at a 3-6 grade level when they were set up, we will continue to send books for that level until we are notified to change it.

Address Cards—When returning audio cartridges, there is no need to place the mail card with your name and address inside the container. Simply remove the card and throw it away. Even though your name is not on it, your account will be credited when we scan the bar code on the returned cartridge.

Newsletter formats—This newsletter is available in large print, braille, audio, and email formats. Contact KTBL if you would like to change the format you receive.



This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and by patrons and supporters of the Kentucky Talking Book Library.

Kentucky Talking Book Library
PO Box 537
Frankfort KY 40602

Free Matter for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
DMM 703.5