



## Letter from the Acting Director: Staff Changes at Talking Books

Newsletter  
of the  
Nebraska  
Library  
Commission  
Talking Book  
& Braille  
Service

We have had a number of staff changes at the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille service in the last year. New staff members have joined our team, and long-time staff have moved into new positions. Here are a few of the people who work together to bring you new recordings, help to choose the best books for every borrower, and prepare books to be delivered to your doorstep:

Gabe Kramer became our Studio Manager last December, after long-time Studio Manager Bill Ainsley retired. Gabe has been working in the studios and circulation for talking books since 2009. Gabe's old position in

studio and circulation support was filled by Dave Eckmann, starting in January. Dave has worked in talking books and reference areas of the Nebraska Library Commission since 2000.

Nicholas Westra joined our circulation staff in March, having most recently worked with Lincoln City Libraries. He gets books ready to go out in the mail each day, and inspects the books returned to us. And Cecelia Ramsey, most recently with Omaha Public Library, joined our Reader Advisors team this July. Many of you may already have spoken with her on the telephone.

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# Letter from the acting director: staff changes at Talking Books

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Finally, David Oertli retired from his 32-year career as Director of the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service at the end of August. I am excited to serve you as Acting Director after 10 years as Circulation and Audio Production Coordinator for talking books. Though we are all learning many new things

in our new positions, we will continue to do our best to bring books, magazines and braille to your door with efficiency and dedication. We are all so happy to serve you!

Scott Scholz  
Acting Director  
Nebraska Library  
Commission  
Talking Book and Braille  
Service ■

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# Talking Books opens West Wing

The Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille service has moved part of our operations in Lincoln! Earlier this year, we relocated our recording studios, circulation stacks, and several meeting rooms from the lower level to a new first-floor location in the Atrium building, our home in Lincoln for the last 20 years. Our new space, affectionately dubbed the "west wing," features new studio equipment and recording booths, including two additional booths used for some of the extra steps involved with turning our recordings into digital talking books. Our area

for inspecting books as they return to us has moved closer to the mail dock as well. The new space is somewhat smaller, but we are able to provide even more efficient service from the new location.

All telephone numbers remain the same, and borrowers who visit the Talking Book and Braille Service in person will still find our Readers Advisory desk in the same place as before, but our volunteer narrators now travel just across the hall from our main location to find our studios. If you're ever in Lincoln and would like a tour, we would be happy to have you! ■

## Please Return Books When Finished

Among the many new changes at the Talking Book and Braille Service, we are using a new kind of circulation software called WebReads, a new

cloud-based system that replaces the READS software we have used for many years. While we adjust to the new software, there is one

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# Please Return Books When Finished

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area where we need your help. We are not going to be able to send overdue notices, so it's more important than ever that you return books as soon as you have finished reading them.

The loan period for talking books is six weeks. Popular or high-demand books sometimes

develop a waiting list of borrowers who want to read them, and the sooner they are returned, the sooner others can enjoy them. Returning books promptly also means that the next books on your own list will begin their journey through the mail to you. ■

## Books for Holiday Reading

The holidays are busy but festive with family and friends. Here are some good books to savor during the hectic holiday season.

DB 69200 *Friendly Fire*, by A.B. Yahushua

Ya'ari spends the week of Hanukkah at home in Israel while his fifty-seven-year-old wife Daniela visits her dead sister's widower Yirmiyahu at his archaeological site in Africa. She finds Yirmiyahu agonizing over his sense of Jewish identity, and his soldier son's death from "friendly fire." First published in Hebrew.

DB 74075 *The Christmas Wedding*, by James Patterson

Fifty-four-year-old widow Gaby creates a video to invite her grown children and their families to her Massachusetts farm for Christmas. She informs them that they will also be attending her wedding, but refuses to tell them who the groom is—right up until the ceremony. Strong language. Bestseller.

# Books for Holiday Reading

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**DB 74097 *His Mistress by Christmas (Sinful Family Secrets Bk 1)***, by Victoria Alexander

By Nebraska author Victoria Alexander. 1885. Widowed lady Veronica Smithson wants to be explorer Sir Sebastian Hadley-Attwater's mistress—nothing more. But Sebastian must marry to claim his family's inheritance, and he intends to wed Veronica. His family decides to help. Explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook.

**DB 75671 *Thanksgiving Prayer***, by Debbie Macomber

Two romance novels. Title story, Seattle medical student Claudia meets Seth, an Alaskan Businessman, but is torn between marriage in an unfamiliar environment and her potential career. In "A Handful of Heaven," waitress Paige and a divorced

customer are in love—but both are afraid of commitment. Bestseller.

**DB 75765 *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk***, by Ben Fountain

Billy and the other soldiers are home in the states for a victory tour after a televised Iraqi firefight. As they experience a Dallas Cowboys game on Thanksgiving Day, Billy reflects on fame, life, and war. Violence and strong language.

**DB 75911 *The Giving Quilt (Elm Creek Quilts, Book 20)***, by Jennifer Chiaverini

Sylvia, Sarah, Maggie, and Gretchen welcome students at their annual post-Thanksgiving Camp, Quiltsgiving. The ladies discuss their personal problems and goals, while creating quilts for underprivileged children.

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# Books for Holiday Reading

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DB 76481 *Truth in Advertising*, by John Kenney

Lost and lonely Finbar, a New York advertising writer, cancels his Christmas plans for a last-minute assignment. Then his older brother calls to say that their long-lost dad is deathly ill. Going home to Boston forces Fin to reevaluate his choices. Strong language and some descriptions of sex.

DB 77324 *Amy Falls Down*, by Jincy Willett

Aging novelist Amy Gallup is content—if not exactly happy—with the hermit-like existence she and her dog Alphonse lead. On New Year's Eve, Amy goes out to plant a tree and falls down. This seemingly simple mishap sets off events that open up possibilities in her life. Some strong language. Commercial Audiobook. ■

## New Magazine All about Oklahoma

If you have friends and family from the Sooner State, or you're interested in the southern reaches of the Great Plains, you might want to start reading *Oklahoma Today* magazine. Since 1956, *Oklahoma Today* has captured the essence of Oklahoma—its people, places, culture, and history—through stunning photography and award-winning writing and

design. Providing its readers the best of Oklahoma's people, places, travel, culture, food, and outdoors, this bimonthly recording is now being recorded by the Oklahoma Regional Library. To sign up for this free magazine, please use the order form on page 7 or contact your Reader Advisor. ■

# Old Favorites

Here are some classic books and series books you might enjoy. Remember: books in series may not arrive in order due to availability.

**Series: *Prairie Winds*** by Stephanie Grace Whitson  
Pioneer stories

**Series: *The Cat Who***, by Lilian Jackson Braun.  
Mystery.

**Series: *Skye's West***, by Richard S. Wheeler.  
Western.

**Series: *Berlin Noir*** trilogy, by Phillip Kerr.  
Mystery.

**Series: *The Man From Boot Hill***, by Marcus Galloway.  
Western.

**Series: *Lasting Love***, by June Master Bacher.  
Christian Fiction/pioneer stories.

**Series: *Sisters of Holmes County*** trilogy, by Wanda E. Brunstetter.  
Amish Fiction.

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## Order Form and Mailing Instructions

Mark the books and magazines you wish to order, then put the page into an envelope and mail to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book & Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite #120, The Atrium, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

Oklahoma Today

DB 69200

DB 74075

DB 74097

DB 75671

DB 75765

DB 75911

DB 76481

DB 77324

# Old Favorites

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❑ Series: *Mitford Years*, by Jan Karon.  
Classic fiction.

❑ Series: *Rocky Mountain Memories*, by Lori Wick.  
Christian fiction.

❑ DB 11206 *At Random*, by Bennett Cerf.  
Biography.

❑ DB 12684 *The Bravest Babysitter*, by Barbara Greenberg.  
Realistic Fiction. For grades Pre-2.

❑ DB 12970 *And Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou.  
Poetry.

❑ DB 14029 *Aunt Erma's Cope Book*, by Erma Bombeck.  
Humor.

❑ DB 19233 *Poland*, by James Michener.  
Historical Fiction.

❑ DB 47646 *O Pioneers!* by Willa Cather.  
Nebraska pioneer.

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Talking Book and Braille Service  
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Free Matter  
For the  
Blind or  
Handicapped