

ARIZONA TALKING BOOK LIBRARY
Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records
A Division of the Secretary of State

Talking Book News



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Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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SPRING 2025

OPEN HOUSE 2025: CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF SERVICE

On March 14, 2025, the Arizona Talking Book Library opened its doors for the first in-person Open House since 2017. Approximately 230 visitors walked through the library during a very busy morning. We were touched to learn that some patrons traveled long distances to join us that day, with one person coming all the way from Somerton - which is a 3 hour commute!

Attendees toured the building to find out more about each department, and to learn how book orders are assigned and put onto cartridges to mail all over the state. The fun didn't stop there, as our patrons then had the opportunity to choose their own adventure. In the new upstairs training space, they listened to special guest speakers throughout the day. As an example, we were honored to welcome Kevin Osborne, Head of the Network Services Section at the National Library Service for the Blind and Print

Disabled (NLS), who journeyed west from Washington, DC! He did not come empty-handed, and some lucky patrons were among the first to hold the next generation digital player, known as the DA2. And where did they go to try it out? At the Device Advice table, where staff from the Arizona Talking Book Library and Saavi Services for the Blind answered questions about library equipment like the Braille eReader.

Other organizations exhibited at the event, including Maricopa County Elections, who were on hand to demonstrate accessible voting equipment and ballots.

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Finally, some patrons returned to the studio to record a special message in a soundproof booth about what the library means to them.

If you weren't able to join us or if you missed a particular activity, there are still ways to participate! All three speaking blocks are available on the library's YouTube channel and can be accessed at tinyurl.com/ATBLstreams.

If you would like to share a message about what the library means to you, we would love to hear it! Call the library at 602-255-5578 and let us know you are interested in sharing your special Open House message. By doing so, you authorize the Arizona Talking Book Library, the Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records, and the Arizona Secretary of State to use your recorded statement in perpetuity. When recording your message, you can do so anonymously. Thank you!

Photos:

Upper Right: Kevin Osborne of NLS stands at a podium and speaks to attendees.



Lower Right: A close-up image of a person placing their hands on a Braille eReader while a second person rests their hands nearby.

Any mention of products and services in Talking Book News is for information only and does not imply endorsement.

Talking Book News is also available in other formats including our website at www.azlibrary.gov/talkingbooks. If you would like to receive this newsletter on cartridge or in email, please call 602-255-5578 or 1-800-255-5578 (inside Arizona only).

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PROVIDING
Preserving Arizona
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FROM THE BOOTH: EXCITING NEWS FROM NLS TO YOU!

At the end of 2024, the Arizona Talking Book Library started producing our very own podcast – From the Booth: The Arizona Talking Book Library Podcast! Librarians Cassidy and Sara cover a wide variety of topics, from history to pop culture to what is new in the world of books.

Our two latest episodes featured two very special guests: Alice O'Reilly, the Chief of the Collections Division at the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), and Kevin Osborne, Head of Network Services Section at NLS. Cassidy and Sara sat with Alice and Kevin to learn more about their roles at NLS, more information about the upcoming "DA2" digital talking book machine, which audiobooks they have downloaded, and more!

You can listen to From the Booth for free by searching for Arizona Talking Book Library on YouTube or Spotify. If you want to check out some of the books and series we discussed in these episodes, find these titles on BARD or request them from your librarian today!

American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis

Ellis's notorious novel portrays a materialistic and desensitized world of the 1980s and coldly describes apocalyptic horror. Unrated. **DB 32488** or **DBG18731** in Spanish

Slough House. Books 1-3 by Mick Herron

In *Dead Lions*, disgraced, washed-up MI5 spies at Slough House get the chance to redeem themselves after a spy is found dead. Also contains *Slow Horses* and *Real Tigers*. Some violence and some strong language. **DB 84464**

Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Thomas Cromwell, a closet Protestant and blacksmith's son who becomes advisor to Henry VIII of England, realizes that he can accumulate power and wealth by assisting the king in obtaining an annulment and simultaneously help commoners and his country by destroying the corrupt Catholic clergy. Booker Prize. **DB 70074**



Photo: Alice O'Reilly (left) sits down with Reader Advisor Librarians Cassidy Crone (middle) and Sara Zapotocky (right) for a podcast recording.



Children and Adults are encouraged to join us for the 2025 Summer Reading program with the Arizona Talking Book Library. **Program runs June 2nd to August 1st, 2025** and is made possible with funding by Arizona Friends of Talking Books!

The theme this year is Color Our World which means we want to read about the science of color, artists from around the world, creative hobbies, colorful adventures, and whatever color may mean to YOU!

For Youth: We want you to read every day for at least 20 minutes. This can be by yourself or with someone else. Youth participants will have new options this year!

Option 1: receive a game board & stickers in the mail, so you will add a sticker to your game board for every 20 minutes read. Option 2: Download the Beanstack App on a smartphone and track all your reading digitally! When you register for this year's program be sure to let the library know if you want an email with instructions for Beanstack. All youth who read for at least 1,220 minutes by August 1st will be entered in a grand prize drawing for an Amazon Fire Kids tablet.

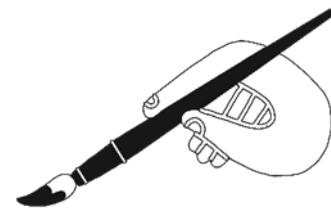
For Adults: Reading is for all ages and can add such vibrancy to our world. Adult participants will receive a bingo-style board with book prompts in each square. Complete a row, column, or the full board & call us to let us know you have completed the bingo board or mail it in. Those who complete this challenge will be entered to win one of 5 grocery store gift cards or the grand prize of an Amazon Fire tablet.

Registration form is included in this newsletter.

- Simply tear out the form.
- Fill out the appropriate section (adult or youth).
- Fold in half.
- Secure with tape or a staple and drop in the mail.
- You can always call us at 602-255-5578 or 800-255-5578 (outside the Phoenix area) to sign up over the phone.

Summer Reading Program Registration

Fill out the form below, fold in half
(so our address shows) and drop in the mail.



You can also register by:

Phone: 602-255-5578 / 800-255-5578 (in AZ) or Email: talkingbooks@azlibrary.gov

Adults:

Name _____

Phone Number or Email _____

Would you like a NLS recommended reading list? Yes _____ No _____

Preference: mailed list _____ or emailed list _____

Youth:

Name _____

Age _____

Parent or Guardian's Contact Name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Grade Level in Fall 2025 _____

Current Reading Level _____

Are you interested in receiving emails about the new Beanstack app to track your child's Summer Reading Minutes via your smartphone? (Circle one)

YES – send me Beanstack information!

NO – Please send paper tracker!

----- Fold here and staple or tape to enter SRP 2025! -----

FREE MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR HANDICAPPED

Arizona Talking Book Library
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NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED (NLS)

Audio Magazine Updates

The following audio magazines will be available soon on the BARD downloading service or on digital cartridge. Subscribe today!

Fur Fish Game (Monthly): Covers a variety of outdoor pursuits.

National Geographic History (Bimonthly): Explores more than 5,000 years of people and places, from Caesar to Napoleon, the Pyramids to the Parthenon, and more.

Stereophile (Monthly): Covers high-end options for the audiophile.

Writer's Digest (Bimonthly): A resource that celebrates the writing life and publishing.

In addition, the audio recording and production of *The Economist* will resume in spring. Back issues from December 7, 2024 to current will not be available.

Braille Magazine Updates

Eight new braille magazines are being added to the NLS collection. These titles are only available in hard-copy braille and will not be on BARD. Call the library to sign up!

Aphra (Monthly): Dating, beauty and fashion advice for women.

Good Vibrations (Monthly): News and reviews of vinyl records and music equipment.

Missy (Monthly): Pop culture magazine for teenagers with gossip and interviews.

Piano Tuner's Quarterly (Quarterly): Advice and tips, and news from the industry.

Progress (Monthly, Grade 2 contracted or Grade 1 uncontracted): Current events, science, games, short stories, and seasonal (metric-system based) recipes.

Pure (Monthly): Articles on relationships, beauty, fashion, and celebrity interviews.

Shaping Up (Monthly): Health news, fitness features, and more.

In addition, *Stone Soup* in braille format will no longer be produced by NLS.

Enhanced Website about NLS Patron Services and Events

This NLS webpage has been updated with the goal of making it a convenient one-stop shop for information on popular services and regularly scheduled events. It includes information about requesting a Braille-on-Demand book, recommending a particular title for the NLS collection, signing up to receive Patron Announce emails and becoming a beta tester for the My Talking Books skill for Alexa-enabled smart speakers. There are also links to the Many Faces of BARD, That All May eRead, Smart Speaking to the Smart Speaker and Quarterly Patron Corner webinars. Visit: www.loc.gov/nls/services-and-resources/patron-services-and-events/

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