

Numbers & Narratives Initiative: An Introduction

My name is Kristin White, and I am proud to assume the role of Director of Talking Book Services for the great state of South Carolina. Having worked in the library profession since 1990 and briefly with the TBS program in Georgia (GLASS), I am acutely aware of how vital this service is to enhancing the quality of life of our alternately-abled patrons. It is for this reason that I am excited to share our bold, new direction.

As the year progresses, you will hear more about our Numbers & Narratives Initiative. This plan will help our team increase our footprint statewide with regard to specific populations, such as armed services veterans and young adults. It will also highlight the impact of our current efforts for our stakeholders and current partners. Through the sharing of stories of specific and poignant incidences of Reader Advisors/patron interactions, our hope is that these accounts, which often do not accompany statistics on a spreadsheet, will begin to be felt through the narratives as much as they are proven through the numbers.

Please know that my door is always open and I look forward to talking with as many of you as possible about our program and its future.

Very sincerely,
Kristin White, Director of Talking Book Services

SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR KIDS



Please fill out and return the Summer Reading Program application that you received in the mail or call Talking Books at (800) 922-7818 or (803) 734-4611 to register. You may also email us at tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov. After that, get ready to start reading!

Everyone who returns a completed registration form or notifies Talking Books via phone or email will receive a reading record for keeping track of every 30 minutes read, special stickers to mark your record, postcards to send back to notify us of your progress, and a prize. For every 5 hours you read, you will receive a special gift until you have reached 20 hours. Make sure to use the postcards to let us know the amount of time you have spent reading so that we can send out each prize. When you have reached the goal of 20 hours, you receive your final prize and are entered into the drawing for the Grand Prize—a personal device on which to download BARD books.

You can participate in your local public library's summer reading program as well as this one! If you have questions about your local library's program being accessible, or you want materials to read to participate, please let us know and we'll send them to you.

Contact us with any questions at (800) 922-7818 or (803) 734-4611. —Kaitlyn Hodges

ADULT SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Don't let the kids have all the fun this summer. Join our adult summer reading program!

This year's theme is South Carolina Books and Authors! What does this mean? To encourage our adult patrons to read locally recorded audio books, we are asking that you read books with South Carolina themes, settings, and authors for the Adult Summer Reading Program. If you have any questions about which books count, please call Talking Books.

What do you have to do? To enroll, please call Talking Books at (800) 922-7818 or (803) 734-4611 and let a Reader Advisor know you would like to sign up. You may also email us at tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov to enroll. If you have any questions about what books to read, our Reader Advisors can give you suggestions or send you a list of options. For every 5 books you read you will receive a special gift until you have reached 20. We do request you read books that are at the adult or young adult reading level. Feel free to read by downloading books from BARD or through the mail as usual. Large print is included if you read print as well.

The fun begins July 1 and runs through August 30. When the program ends on August 2, we will have a drawing for all those who complete 20 or more books. One grand prize and one 2nd place prize will be awarded. —Kaitlyn Hodges

DIGITAL BOOKS AND FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

Many of you have expressed a desire to share your books with other TBS patrons, so we started a book club for TBS audio readers. It is called Digital Books and Friends Book Club, for patrons who enjoy discussing their views, hearing each others' thoughts, or just have a passion for reading.

The book club meets on the phone using a toll-free number and an access code on the last Friday of every month, except July and December. The one hour session starts at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested, we recommend registering at least three weeks in advance of the club meeting date.

For more information or to register, please contact Brenda at 1-800-922-7818 or email bboyd@statelibrary.sc.gov.

UPCOMING TITLES

August 30, 2019

The Three Beths by Jeff Abbott

DB092895 11 hours, 19 minutes; available on BARD

September 27, 2019

Carnegie's Maid by Marie Benedict

DB089953 9 hours, 3 minutes; available on BARD

October 25, 2019

How To Walk Away by Katherine Center

DB091087 10 hours, 38 minutes; available on BARD

—Brenda Boyd

TBS ON THE ROAD



On April 25, 2019, Reader Advisors from the Talking Books staff visited and had lunch with someone who has been a very special patron of ours since 2011. We joined Mrs. Ruth Rabley at her home at the Palmettos of Parklane.

For years, Mrs. Rabley invited us to come visit her, and on that particular day we were able to fulfill her wish. Years ago, Mrs. Rabley visited us at Talking Book Services and had been asking ever since for us to return the visit. We were happy to finally be able to do so!

As expected, it was a wonderful experience getting to know Mrs. Rabley better, and the TBS staff really enjoyed hearing stories about her life experiences. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch, met the staff of the Palmettos, and were able to educate them a bit more about the various services provided by Talking Books.

Thank you so much Mrs. Rabley, Jeff, and Charlene for having us for lunch! We truly enjoyed it!

—Allison Lovette

2019 Volunteer Recognition Program



Volunteers for Talking Book Services and the South Carolina State Library were celebrated and applauded on April 17 at the annual volunteer recognition lunch, which was held at the historic SC State Museum in Columbia. During lunch, we enjoyed listening to our speaker, Ellen Dunn, Public Information Coordinator for the SC State Library, share touching stories about some of her volunteer experiences. Along with Ellen was her certified therapy dog, Katie. Together they go to schools, libraries, and hospitals to celebrate the joys of reading.

We were proud to honor 48 volunteers who contributed more than 1,200 hours of service to the library. Volunteers work in many aspects of the day to day operations of TBS. In the mail room, they assist with book inspection and pulling books. They have provided a great deal of help as we have weeded our large print and digital book collections. And as it is true in any library, there are always books to be shifted. We have been fortunate to have long standing partnerships with the SC Commission for the Blind and the Carolina Life program at USC. These students have been a tremendous help in these projects.

Our Telecom Pioneers have a great impact on our patrons by repairing over 1,000 digital talking book machines. Because of their commitment to our machine repair program, we always have plenty of machines to send to new patrons or to send as replacements. Other volunteers assist the Reader Advisors by taking patron phone calls, entering book requests, and doing newsletter mailings.

The recording program continues to produce more books and magazines about our state for our patrons' enjoyment. The narrators' voices tell the story the author wrote, while the reviewers improve the quality of our recordings. In the past year, 18 books were completed, issues of *SC Wildlife Magazine* and our newsletter were recorded. Our patrons love books in series, and we've started more series based in South and North Carolina.



Prior to the volunteer recognition lunch, the Advisory Council met to hear updates on recent TBS activities and discuss finding a project they can work on together to promote our library services. We appreciate the support the Advisory Council gives to our program and our patrons. We are pleased to have two new members representing teachers and students, joining the group of ten members.

Talking Book Services is proud of all our volunteers and the way they use their unique skills to help our library provide better service to our patrons! We look forward to another productive and exciting year working together.

—Naomi Bradey



TBS TIPS TO TALK ABOUT

New Large Print Biographies & Autobiographies

- LP 23764 The Princess Diarist by Carrie Fisher**
- LP 23765 Ballplayer by Chipper Jones**
- LP 23766 A Life Well Played: My Stories by Arnold Palmer**
- LP 23768 But Enough About Me: A Memoir by Burt Reynolds**
- LP 23769 Tiger Woods by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian**
- LP 23770 I Am Brian Wilson by Brian Wilson**

New Descriptive DVDs

- DW00689 Hunter Killer (action adventure)**
- DW00690 Bohemian Rhapsody (biography)**
- DW00692 Mary Queen of Scots (historical biography)**
- DW00693 A Star Is Born (drama, musical)**
- DW00696 The Girl in the Spider's Web (suspense)**
- DW00700 Green Book (historical drama)**
- DW00705 Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald (fantasy)**
- DW00708 Instant Family (comedy)**
- DW00709 Robin Hood (action, historical)**
- DW00715 Ralph Breaks the Internet (animated children's, comedy)**

—Dianne Keadle



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MEET THE NARRATOR

by C. HOPE CLARK

I miss the weeks I can't step inside that sound-proof booth, sink into a story, and record. It's more than a habit. It's therapy.

Initially, volunteering as a narrator for the Talking Book Services was more about my being an author and making my own books available via another venue to readers, but once a year of volunteering turned into three, I realized I'd been sucked more into the giving aspect. It is no longer about me. And to be frank, the program is giving back to me more than I ever gave to it.

There's a magic to readers knowing the author is narrating the book, and not all authors can provide that. Readers feel closer to the author, and many feel they develop a friendship with the author. I spoke to them personally . . . told them a story. I entered their world and visited a spell. There's a specialness in that, and I actually find myself wanting to write faster . . . in hope that we never run out of books to record.

Some of the readers have come full circle and reached out to me. Blind, housebound, and, yes, even dying in hospice. I have a letter on my wall, handwritten in a shaky, elderly hand that ends with "Thanks for all your effort. You make each day so much better." Another lady, only in her forties and dying of cancer, asked for audio books about Edisto, her favorite beach.

One of my mystery series is based on Edisto, and she read them all before she passed on. I never met her, but to this day, picturing her in her last painful weeks escaping to the beach through my readings, builds a lump in my throat.

A writer understands alone time. They need it to function and tell stories at their deepest and clearest level, but they can choose to step out of that fiction and participate in the real world. However, the real world is rather limiting to many of these Talking Book readers, with some rarely leaving their home. They are making a conscious choice to step into the fiction world for escape, and for them to choose my worlds to enter is an intense honor I'll cherish for the rest of my days.

—Submitted by Ron Whitten



DBC05222
Lowcountry Bribe, A Carolina Slade Mystery, book 1

DBC05223
Tidewater Murder, A Carolina Slade Mystery, book 2

DBC05224
Palmetto Poison, A Carolina Slade Mystery, book 3

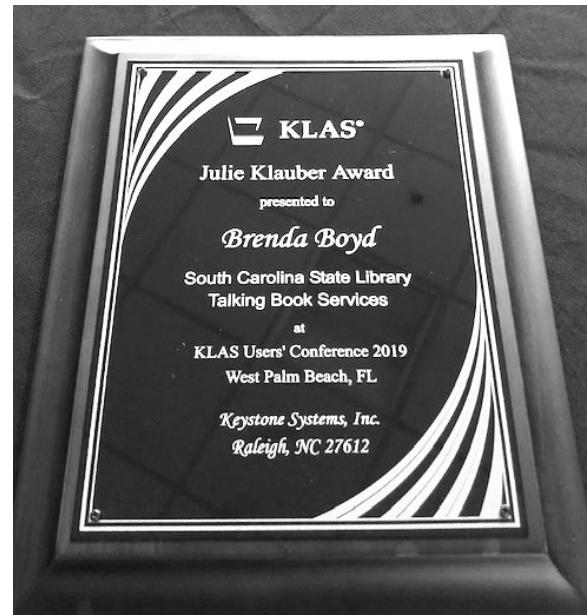
DBC05244
Newberry Sin, A Carolina Slade Mystery, book 4

TIPS & TRICKS

Please be sure to keep the cartridge and case together so the book is ready to go right back out. This helps you get the books you want quicker. Duplicating the same books to make sure we have copies takes extra time that could be spent on making new books. —Duane Wilson

Cartridge cases may seem like great places to store items such as money, keys, and mail temporarily, but these items can easily be forgotten. Before sending your items back, please ensure that they are free of any loose items that could become lost in the mail. —Mark Frick & Amber Sanders

**Congratulations Brenda Boyd for being the recipient
of the National Julie Klauber Award!**





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DONATIONS

We greatly appreciate the generosity of those who give and we miss those patrons who have been honored with memorials. Remember that all donations are considered a charitable donation and therefore tax-deductible. When making a donation, please include the address of those to be notified for memorials or donations in honor of a special occasion or person.

Donations can be sent to Talking Book Services, SC State Library, 1500 Senate St., Columbia, SC 29201. Donations are used to enhance and improve library services. Please make checks payable to Talking Book Services.

An updated list of our most recent donors will be listed and properly thanked in the next issue.

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM





**Talking Book Services
1500 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

**803-734-4611
1-800-922-7818
FAX: 803-734-4610**

tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov

**HOURS:
Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

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