



# **New Mexico State Library**

## **News of the Library for the Blind**

## **and Print Disabled**

## **Summer 2021**

This newsletter is published by the New Mexico Regional Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) and is distributed free to patrons and other interested parties. In addition to large print, the newsletter can be requested in braille, heard in audio on New Mexico Newsline for the Blind, or viewed at the State Library's web site at [www.nmstatelibrary.org/lbph](http://www.nmstatelibrary.org/lbph) For information, call LBPD at 1-800-456-5515 or 505-476-9770, or email [sl.lbph@state.nm.us](mailto:sl.lbph@state.nm.us).

### **Library Status – We're Coming Back August 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

New Mexico State Library staff, including the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, will be returning to work at the office this month. Our reading room is still closed, but we will be offering on-site pickup and drop-off for books and players.

If you would like to pick up your books in person, call us ahead of your visit so that we can have everything ready to go when you arrive. We are still following COVID-safe guidelines, including masks for all employees and a 6-foot social distance.

As a reminder, our building's main entrance moved upstairs in late 2019. Follow the same turn-off from Camino Carlos Rey, but drive past the old entrance and take the next left into the upper parking lot. You can call in for curbside pickup or enter the building and follow the stairs down to drop-off outside our door.

Everyone here at the library would just like to thank you again for your patience and flexibility over this past year. So many of you have expressed your gratitude, shared your pain, and been there with us through an unprecedented experience. We are not there yet, but with the building reopening. it does feel like we are starting to come back to normal.

## **The BEAST Is On The Move**

The National Federation of The Blind, NM affiliate is promoting blind entertainers and support team, "BEAST". Blind and low vision performers, writers and related workers are encouraged to develop skills and raise expectations and goals.

NM BEAST is actively supporting all levels of talent and ambition by aspiring blind and visually impaired individuals.

Blind performers and friends are invited to share their talents on a showcase during the State's NFB NM virtual convention in August. If you are a singer, musician, comic, or poet or know artists that share our vision of higher expectations and opportunities for blind or low vision New Mexicans, join in the fun. Interested persons should submit a 5-minute audition video for consideration by July 15th.

For more information contact:

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## **BARD Express Updates**

BARD Express is a simple program for Windows computers, designed to make it much easier to download books from BARD. Books can be loaded directly onto a flash drive to play on our Talking Book Players, or even downloaded directly from your computer to a connected player like the Victor Reader.

BARD Express was built from the ground up to be convenient for blind and low vision patrons using a screen reader, but it is also great for sighted users who want a simple process. The newest set of updates have solved some long-time quality of life complaints, so give BARD Express another try if you would like to download your own books!

## **New From Nearby States**

### **DBC18247 – Ten Texas Feuds**

**By C. L. Sonnichsen (Texas State Library Talking Book Program)**

For twenty years, grassroots historian Sonnichsen went door-to-door through the backcountry of east and south-central Texas to coax tales from reluctant informants and peruse county documents on the colorful feuds that bloodied the state's early history. From these human explosions emerged legendary gangs such as the Regulators, Moderators, Hoodoos, Heel Flies, and Boots. Personal vengeance righted intolerable wrongs and settled unbearable grievances.

### **DBC14009 – Death in Yellowstone: Accidents and Foolhardiness in the First National Park**

**By Lee H. Whittlesey (Montana State Talking Book Library)**

True account of how 300 people died in Yellowstone National Park from 1870 to 1995. Yellowstone Park has many dangers from earthquakes to bear attacks, poison gas, boiling water, and lightning. The book warns visitors of these and many other deadly dangers. For high school and adult readers.

### **DBC13876 – The Best of the West: New Short Stories from the Wide Side of the Missouri**

**By James Thomas (Montana Talking Book Library)**

This collection brings together twenty stories which, taken together, provide us with a powerful and penetrating vision of life in today's American West. Set against the background of the West with its jacked-up pickup trucks and jukebox raucousness, its missile silos and trailer court cities, these stories are an update on the modern concerns and needs of those who inhabit or pass through this legendary territory. For adult readers.

**DBC13846 – The Blue Hen's Chick: an autobiography**

**By A. B. Guthrie (Montana Talking Book Library)**

**For more than half a century A. B. Guthrie, Jr., was the true voice of the real West. This is his personal and historical narrative, originally published in 1965 when Guthrie was sixty-four and had miles to go. It recounts lively adventures and reflects on a career that brought fame for "The Big Sky" (1947) and led to the Pulitzer Prize for "The Way West" (1949). For high school and adult readers.**

**DBC04762 – Bad Boys and Black Sheep: Fateful Tales from the West**

**By Robert Gish (Nevada Talking Book Services)**

**A diversified collection of ten stories about men of different racial backgrounds and ages. The consequences of their pasts result in confrontations in their present lives. The individual stories range from their lives in the Oklahoma Indian Territory, a small town and a large city in New Mexico, and the earthquake counties of California. Contains violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex.**

**DBC13058 – A Tortilla is Like Life: Food and Culture in the San Luis Valley of Colorado**

**By Carole Counihan (Colorado Talking Book Library)**

**Between 1996 and 2006, anthropologist Counihan collected food-centered life histories from nineteen Mexicanas (Hispanic American women) from the small town of Antonito in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. The interviews in this study focused on southern Colorado Hispanic foodways – beliefs and behaviors surrounding food production, distribution, preparation, and consumption. Three lines of inquiry are framed: feminist ethnography; Latino cultural citizenship; and Chicano environmentalism. Some strong language. 2009.**

## **Jazz Autobiographies**

**DB063277 – Satchmo: My Life in New Orleans by Louis Armstrong.**

**Autobiography of jazz legend Louis Armstrong (1900-1971) chronicles his early years in New Orleans. Describes Armstrong's home life and his foray into the music scene, playing in bars with the biggest names in New Orleans until his 1922 departure to Chicago. 1954.**

**DB063336 – Beneath the Underdog: His World as Composed by Mingus by Charles Mingus.**

**Jazz musician and composer Charles Mingus (1922-1979) recounts his life, from his rough beginnings in Watts, California, where he learned about jazz, women, and crime, to his music career in New York. Describes his feelings, his appetites, and his music. Strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 1971.**

**DB037380 – The Woodchopper's Ball: The Autobiography of Woody Herman by Woody Herman.**

**The story of how a white kid from Milwaukee became the leader of The Band That Plays the Blues and a succession of Woody Herman Herds. Told by a jazz critic for Newsday, a manager, friends, musicians, and the band leader himself. Herman played the clarinet and the saxophone, but it was his ability to assemble and "coach" big bands that earned him a coveted place in jazz history.**

**DB080338 – Herbie Hancock: Possibilities by Herbie Hancock**

**Grammy Award winner Hancock (born 1940) reflects on his life and career. Discusses growing up on Chicago's South Side, discovering music and jazz, playing in Miles Davis's band, his solo career, drug addiction, becoming a Buddhist, and his work as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. Contains some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2014.**

## **Award Winning Literature**

**DB098896 – The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich**  
**Pulitzer Prize Winner for Fiction**

**1953. Chippewa Council member Thomas Wazhashk tries to balance the demands of his job as a night watchman at the new jewel bearing plant outside the Turtle Mountain reservation and monitoring the consequences of the bill purporting emancipation for Native American tribes wending its way through Congress. Unrated. 2020**

**DB101310 – Shuggie Bain by Stuart Douglas**  
**Booker Prize**

**In 1980s Glasgow, Shuggie's mother Agnes is a burden for him and his siblings. Obsessed with keeping up appearance, she finds increasing solace in drink, forcing Shuggie to care for her as she swings between alcoholic binges and sobriety. Unrated. 2020**

**DB098819 – Deacon King Kong by James McBride**  
**Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence**

**1969. On a cloudy September morning, Deacon Cuffy Lambkin – known as Sportcoat to his friends – walks into the plaza of a Brooklyn project and shoots the local drug dealer point blank in the face. His reasons for this uncharacteristic act of violence slowly unfold. Contains strong language. 2020.**

**DB098416 – Interior Chinatown by Charles Yu**  
**National Book Award**

**Every day, actor Willis Wu heads to the Chinatown restaurant where they are perpetually filming a police procedural TV show. He feels like he plays a bit role even in his own life but dreams of one day having a chance at something more. Contains some violence and some strong language. 2020.**

**DB100166 – Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell**

**National Book Critics Circle Award; The Women's Prize for Fiction**

**In 1580s England, the plague is sweeping the land. Young Hamnet goes in search of his mother and older sister when his twin, Judith, falls ill. But as Hamnet begins to fight against the illness, his parents' strained marriage is revealed--and he will become Hamlet. Unrated.**

**DB102225 – Fathoms: The World in the Whale by Rebecca Giggs**

**Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction**

**After helping to try to rescue a beached humpback whale near her home in Australia, Giggs became fascinated by the world of whales. Topics include the presence of whales in the prehistoric and historical records, whale hunting, and impact of the changing environment on them. Unrated. 2020.**

**DB098600 – The Stranger Diaries by Elly Griffiths**

**Edgar Award**

**High school English teacher Clare Cassidy specializes in the Gothic writer R. M. Holland. When one of Clare's colleagues and closest friends is found dead, with a line from Holland's most famous story, "The Stranger," left by her body, Clare is horrified to see her life collide with the storylines of her favorite literature. Unrated. 2019.**

**DB097741 – Good Girl, Bad Girl by Michael Robotham**

**Gold Dagger Award**

**Six years ago, a girl was discovered hiding in a secret room in the aftermath of a terrible crime. She wouldn't tell anyone her name, her age, or where she came from. Now forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven must determine if she is ready to be released as an adult. Contains violence, strong language, and explicit descriptions of sex. 2019.**

## **What Are Your Reader Advisors Reading?**

**Berdina – “My reads have been focused on girl power. These titles have provided so much encouragement and positivity in my own life and have created a stronger appreciation for the sacrifices and battles fought for me and future generations: Witches by Sam George Allen (DB099033); Vanguard by Martha Jones (DB101428); and Why They Marched by Susan Ware (DB101163).”**

**Sam – “I picked up a copy of You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey (DB102254) by Amber Ruffin back on Indie Bookstore Day and could not stop reading. Comedian Amber Ruffin and her sister Lacey narrate their stories of the crazy, casual, and absurd acts of day-to-day racism they, but mostly Lacey, have had to deal with. Hilarious!”**

**Tim – “I'm a Navy veteran and I love sea stories! I just began one of the most famous of all. The Bounty Trilogy (DB072062) includes three classic sea stories set in the 1780s South Pacific. In Mutiny on the Bounty Captain Bligh and eighteen loyal men are set adrift in a twenty-three-foot open launch. If you like sea adventures with a mix of exotic romance and mutiny, this is the one for you.”**

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