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# Director's Message

Happy 2024!

After the hubbub of the holiday season, the early months of the new year can be a welcome respite from the rush. It's the perfect time to embrace the Danish concept of *hygge* (pronounced hoo-guh)?

*Hygge* comes from the sixteenth-century Norwegian term *hugga*, meaning to comfort, and it is related to the English word, hug. At its simplest, *hygge* is a focus on cozy contentment and well-being, often shared with family and friends.

If you'd like a little more *hygge* in your life, you can start by learning more about it: try reading *The Little Book of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living* (DB 87391), or *The Book of Hygge: The Danish Art of Contentment, Comfort, and Connection* (DB 88360); both are available on BARD, or call to request them through a Reader Advisor at 1-800-922-7818.

Whether you choose to *hygge* or not, I hope your late winter and early spring are full of comfort, good friends, and good books!



Jennifer Falvey  
Director of Talking Book Services

# Program Updates

## For the Love of Reading

It's not too late to participate in the TBS Winter Reading contest! This year's program is titled For the Love of Reading and runs from January 1 to February 28.

Patrons may choose to read and track their progress by the book or by hours. At the end of the program, everyone registered for the program who read and tracked at least ONE book or ONE hour will receive a prize bundle and ONE entry in the Grand Prize Drawing for an accessible board game.

Winter Reading ends February 28, 2024. For more information, or to report your hours or books read please contact a Reader Advisor

Another great program to put on your calendar is our recently-restarted book club: **Accessible Reads: A Book Club for the Blind.**

This unique book club has been specifically tailored for blind individuals and will be conducted over Zoom. We aim to create a supportive and inclusive space that fosters community, promotes literacy, and provides an engaging platform for people with visual impairments to share their love for literature and connect with like-minded people.

**For more information about these programs call or email  
(800) 922-7818 or [tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov](mailto:tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov)**

## Start Your Paintbrushes!

Calling all artists: Now is the time to start thinking about submissions to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual SCTBS Student Art Gallery Competition!

Any visually-impaired or blind school-age child between the ages of 6-18 is eligible to submit one piece of tactile art in any medium.

**There are three age categories: 6 to 10; 11 to 15, and 16 and up.**

Winners are announced at an Art Gallery celebration held in person at the State Library and streamed on Zoom.

**Stay tuned for more information and the submission deadline, or call 1-800-922-7818 with any questions.**



Photo of last year's State Librarian Winner Sarah with South Carolina State Library Director Leesa Aiken

# National Library Service Updates

Here are some search tips you may not know about: NLS Catalog

**<https://nlscatalog.loc.gov/index.html>**

Of course you can search by title, author, narrator, subject, or keywords; but did you know you can also search by narrator? Just use the first and last name of the narrator in a Keyword search. sort your search results by newest to oldest?

On BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download service), you can find lists of newly added books and—if you're wondering what other NLS patrons are reading—the most popular downloads over the past 30 days.

The NLS also has dozens of curated lists of titles on a wide variety of topics.

Visit the **Minibibliography Index** at

**<https://www.loc.gov/nls/new-materials/book-lists/>**

to find out what's available, then call a Reader Advisor to request titles.

1-800-922-7818.



**That All May Read**

# Patron Survey Results

A huge “thank you” to the **195 TBS patrons** who completed our Patron Survey!

## The results were overwhelmingly positive—here are some details:

- TBS Service overall: *80% are Completely or Mostly Satisfied*
- Ease of contact: *90.4% are Completely or Mostly Satisfied*
- Quality of local recordings: *74% are Completely or Mostly Satisfied*
- Variety of local recordings: *71% are Completely or Mostly Satisfied*
- Majority still using cartridges & machines, *BUT 53 out of 195 didn't know about BARD*
- Programs are popular—people want more reminders
- *63% of patrons don't follow us on Facebook: **Tip:** this is a good way to get reminders!*
- *25-30% are local magazine subscribers*

## Some highlights from the (overwhelmingly positive) comments:

- Thank you for your services. All the people at talking books are wonders.
- I would appreciate your extending a huge thank you to Naomi Bradey for being one of the most dedicated and helpful assistants that I have had the pleasure of dealing with through the years.
- This service has enriched my life in ways I could never adequately express
- You are an absolute godsend
- Thank you. This service has been a blessing to me and my son since I could not read the books to him

- The service has been helpful to me since I was a child. The staff goes above and beyond to make sure I am satisfied and happy. The service has been wonderful for me.
- All of the people I've interacted with at the SC State Library are always very kind, courteous, helpful, and consummately professional! Thank you VERY MUCH for such a great staff!

**Requests:**

- How to access BARD services
- How to check out descriptive DVDs
- How to search for titles
- How to find all the books in a series
- How to request a specific book

**We can Help with all these Questions and More  
Just Call a Reader Advisor at  
1-800-922-7818**

## Spring Cleaning, Anyone?

If your Talking Book Machine needs new batteries, feet, or other repairs, just send it back to SC Talking Book Services in its original mailing box and we will fix it right up and send it back. No postage is necessary!

You can cut out the mailing label below to affix to any box or package if you don't have your original machine box any more.



## Let's Make Sure All Machines Are Active!

There's nothing sadder than a perfectly good Talking Book Machine languishing in a closet! If you are no longer using your machine, please send it back to SC Talking Books so we can assign it to someone else.

**Questions? Call a Reader Advisor: 1-800-922-7818**

**FREE MATTER  
FOR THE  
BLIND AND  
HANDICAPPED**

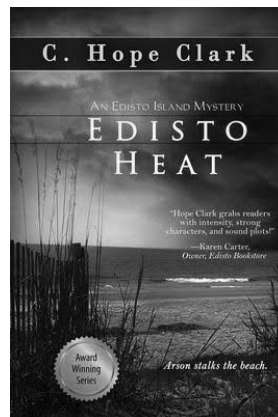
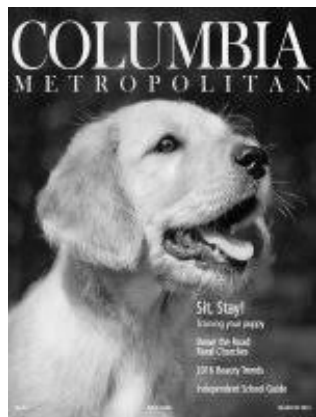
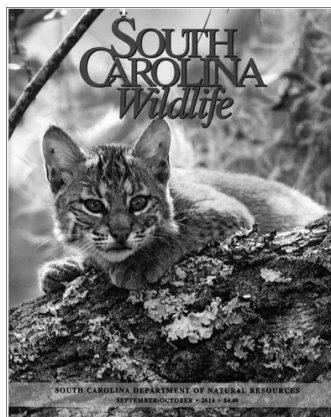
**SOUTH CAROLINA TALKING BOOK SERVICES  
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY  
1500 SENATE STREET  
COLUMBIA SC 29201**



## Stay Up-to-Date with Your State!

South Carolina Talking Book Services is proud to offer audio recordings of a variety of South Carolina-related books and magazines.

Call a Reader Advisor today to ask about South Carolina publications:  
1-800-922-7818



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## Outreach Update: Help Us Get the Word Out!

Do you know someone who would benefit from our services? If so, just have them call a Reader Advisor to see if they are eligible and get the application process started!

We are also very happy to come and talk about our services to church groups, social groups, schools, libraries, assisted living and nursing homes, and other organizations. We are here to serve the Blind and Print Disabled of South Carolina—help spread the word!

**1-800-922-7818 or [tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov](mailto:tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov)**

# Let's Be Social!

Follow SC Talking Book Services on Facebook  
we're always up to something!

**[www.facebook.com/sctbs](http://www.facebook.com/sctbs)**

Visit the Talking Book Services website any time for news,  
information, and great reading recommendations:

**[www.sctalkingbook.org/](http://www.sctalkingbook.org/)**

Follow South Carolina State Library on social media



# Holiday Closures

South Carolina Talking Book Services will be closed for the following state and national holidays; please mark your calendars so you can plan ahead for any cartridge deliveries you may need. As always, you may contact TBS via email or by leaving a voice message on our designated phone line: 800-922-7818, and a Reader Advisor will respond as soon as possible when they return.

<b>2024 Holiday Schedule</b>	
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 15
Presidents Day	Monday, February 19
Confederate Memorial Day	Friday, May 10
National Memorial Day	Monday, May 27
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 2
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28
Day after Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 29
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25
Day after Christmas	Thursday, December 26

**HOURS:**

**Monday-Friday  
8:30am-5:00pm**

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

**CONTACT US:**

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

**tbsbooks@statelibrary.sc.gov**

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Persons unable to read or use materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive services.**

**Call for more information or visit our website:  
[sctalkingbook.org](http://sctalkingbook.org)**



**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY  
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**FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND  
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**Return service requested**