



## **LOSS OF A DEAR FRIEND AND ADVOCATE FOR THE BLIND**

By Marty McKenzie

On June 4, 2018, the Talking Book Services Advisory Council lost a loyal member with the passing of Ruby Bryant. Known widely for her work as a Vending Stand Operator, she had a tremendous positive impact on the profession having worked as a vendor for more than fifty years. Many individuals from across the state in locations where she worked posted on social media regarding their fond memories of this lovely lady. Ruby was a person who did not take “no” as an answer. Rather, she created the scenario that she viewed as best for the situation.



To her friends, Ruby was a model person who was blind. She never held the title Rehabilitation Teacher, but she taught many persons who are blind to cook, perform home management tasks, work in a vending stand and many other life skills that served them well. It has been said that her friends who were blind learned more about independent living from Ruby than they did in the established programs where training was provided. Ruby had a way of making very complex tasks appear simple and she instilled confidence in those around her regarding their skills as persons who are blind.

Ruby was an active member of the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina (NFB of SC) during her life and she held leadership positions at the

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state and local level from time to time. She always gave her best to whatever she was doing and her work with the NFB of SC was no exception. Though she did not live in the area, she was a member of the Clarendon County Chapter of the NFB of SC for many years. She participated in the effort to create the SC Commission for the Blind in the 1960's and her influence was widespread.

Ruby loved to cook for her family and friends. She could be found in her kitchen, with the lights off at night, with her beloved Kitchen Aid Professional Mixer running as she prepared her famous Wet Chocolate Cake. She purchased the first talking microwave ever made in the late 1970's and used this appliance for more than thirty years. She prepared many wonderful meals which were enjoyed with good conversation and wholesome fun. Her friends and family looked forward to these occasions and enjoyed her skills as an excellent cook.

Ruby was an avid user of the latest technology available for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. She purchased an iPhone as a senior citizen and learned to use the touch-screen device with Voice Over. Furthermore, she taught others who are blind to do so as well. She loved her NLS Player, Victor Reader Stream and the BARD App on her iPhone. She always had a book playing while she did any task when she was alone.

Most of all, Ruby will be remembered as a loyal friend who offered sage advice when asked. She never avoided the issues and addressed them directly. She would preface a statement with "Now, I know you don't want to hear this, but..." She could always see all sides of an issue or challenge. She let those around her know that she loved and cherished them. Ruby's love of life was strong and she not only walked through life, she lived it to the fullest as she went along.

## OVERDUE NOTICES

The books and magazines we lend you have a due date of one month from the time you receive them. So, just like any library, Talking Book Services sends out overdue notices to our patrons. The reason you might receive a notice is because the items are still showing on your record in our computer.

The overdue notice is meant to be a reminder that you may still have items checked out to you. We are unable to list the items that are past due on our notices, however. We do check the shelves to make sure that items are not here at the library.

Having overdue items on your record can affect the number of books that the computer is set to send you. The notice is to prompt you to check the items you have and to call us if you believe the notice is in error. We can then look at your record and discuss with you the item(s) that are past due. If you have the item but wish to keep it longer, we may be able to renew it. If you believe it was returned or never received, we can adjust your record accordingly.

Remember, Talking Books never charges overdue fees.

### RETURNING DIGITAL BOOKS

Always make sure that you put the book cartridge back into the container it came out of. Each container has the title and book number for the book inside. If you do not put it into the right container, we will send it back to you to try to straighten out. As long as the book is not in the correct container, we cannot lend it to other patrons nor will it be removed from your record.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Led By Love: Michael Hingson, Thunder Dog, and  
Getting Out of the Twin Towers Alive**

**When: October 18, 2018**

**Time: TBA**

**Where: The South Carolina State Library**

**Mark your calendars! This year, The South Carolina State Library's Talking Book Services will be hosting an author talk by Michael Hingson for Blindness Appreciation Month on October 18, 2018. Hingson, a survivor of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, will be telling his life story and detailing how he and his guide dog made it out of the Twin Towers alive.**

**Who is Michael Hingson?**

**On September 11, 2001, a blind man escaped the World Trade Center by walking down 78 flights of stairs with his guide dog. Days later, America fell in love with Mike and Roselle and the special bond that helped them both survive one of the country's darkest days. Immediately after the 9/11 tragedy, Michael was featured on the Larry King show five times. According to King, "Michael Hingson is an international hero honored and awarded by top organizations worldwide." This media exposure changed the course of Michael's life and launched him into a speaking career that has spanned over a decade. He now travels the world as a keynote and inspirational speaker who can motivate audiences to action. He has also put his experience in a book called Thunder Dog (DB 73300) which is available from us or download via BARD.**

## **What does Michael Hingson Do?**

**After 9/11 Mike Hingson began receiving requests to speak to audiences about his experience on that day as well as to discuss his thoughts on Life and dealing with change. He has become a recognized internationally acclaimed public speaker who captivates audiences with his personal and compelling story. He also teaches his listeners new ways of looking at life and their worlds by helping them to visualize from his viewpoint how to live, function, and thrive. He demonstrates through stories and personal examples how anyone can be a leader and become more successful in whatever they attempt to do. First and foremost, Mike personally connects with every audience member by drawing them into his world and showing them how to use their own inner tools more effectively than they ever thought possible. Mike speaks to and has expertise on topics including leadership, teamwork, trust, inclusion, public speaking, disabilities, survival, change and much more.**

**In countless TV and radio appearances, feature articles, and speaking engagements, Hingson does much more than simply tell his own 9/11 story; he continuously explores the broader lessons of his life and experiences inspiring and motivating audiences with topics such as:**

- + Trust & Teamwork**
- + Human-Animal Bond**
- + Inclusion vs. Diversity**
- + Strategies for the Future**
- + Adapting in Challenging Times**

**This program is free and open to the public. If interested, check with us in September for the time of the presentation.**

## DESCRIPTIVE MOVIES

Talking Book Services has a large collection of Audio Descriptive DVDs available for checkout. They are for the enjoyment of our blind and visually impaired patrons. Audio Descriptive DVDs have a narrator who describes action, characters, locations, costumes and sets without interfering with the dialogue or sound effects. The narrator track is usually under the Setup or Language menus on the DVD. Below are some of the newest videos we have. To order any of these or to get complete video lists call us at 1-800-922-7818.

- DW00547 Alien: Covenant (R)
- DW00548 Marshall (PG-13)
- DW00549 Only the Brave (PG-13)
- DW00550 Detroit (R)
- DW00551 Despicable Me 3 (PG)
- DW00552 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul (PG)
- DW00553 All Saints (PG)
- Dw00554 My Little Pony: The Movie (PG)
- DW00555 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (PG-13)
  
- DW00556 Paris Can Wait (PG)
- DW00557 American Assassin (R)
- DW00558 Roman J. Israel, Esq. (PG-13)
- DW00559 American Made (R)
- DW00560 Atomic Blonde (R)
- DW00561 The Emoji Movie (PG-13)
- DW00562 The Foreigner (R)
- DW00563 Geostorm (PG-13)
- DW00564 Baby Driver (R)

DW00565	Rough Night (R)
DW00566	The Hitman's Bodyguard (R)
DW00567	Wonder Woman (PG-13)
DW00568	The Star (PG)
DW00569	Everything, Everything (PG-13)
DW00570	The Mountain Between Us (PG-13)
DW00571	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (R)
DW00572	Call Me by Your Name (R)
DW00573	Ferdinand (PG)
DW00574	The Shape of Water (R)
DW00575	Murder on the Orient Express (PG-13)
DW00577	Coco (PG)
DW00578	Justice League (PG-13)
DW00579	Daddy's Home 2 (PG-13)
DW00580	Downsizing (R)

## **STOP! DON'T THROW THAT BOX AWAY!**

**When we mail you a new machine or replacement machine it is important for you to keep the box and styrofoam inserts. The box and styrofoam are made specifically for mailing digital talking book machines and even have a card that can be flipped over to mail a machine back to us. Unfortunately, many people do throw them away and then if a machine needs to be replaced there is no box for mailing it back. We cannot send empty boxes through the mail as the post office does not allow that.**

**We could run out of boxes and styrofoam if we do not get them back to reuse. So please keep that box!**

## DIGITAL BOOKS AND FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

We've started a book club for TBS audio readers. The club meets via phone on the last Friday of each month. There will not be a meeting in December.

**August 31, 2018**

**The Nest by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney.**

**DB084406 9 hours, 32 minutes**

**September 28, 2018**

**Behind Closed Doors by B.A. Paris.**

**DB085265 8 hours, 25 minutes**

**October 26, 2018**

**Today Will Be Different by Maria Semple.**

**DB085759 6 hours, 31 minutes**

**November 30, 2018**

**Before the Fall by Noah Hawley.**

**DB084691 12 hours, 57 minutes**

**January 25, 2019**

**The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn.**

**DB090036 12 hours, 47 minutes**

**Time: 3:00pm-4:00pm**

If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Brenda Boyd at 1-800-922-7818 or [bboyd@statelibrary.sc.gov](mailto:bboyd@statelibrary.sc.gov)



## New Large Print Books Now Available

- LP 23229 Lilac Lane: A Chesapeake Shores Novel by Sherryl Woods (romance)
- LP 23239 Fire and Fury, Inside the Trump White House by Michael Wolff (politics and government)
- LP 23265 Unbound: A Stone Barrington Novel by Stuart Woods (mystery)
- LP 23331 I am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai (biography)
- LP 23427 The Cutting Edge: A Lincoln Rhyme Novel by Jeffery Deaver (suspense)
- LP 23428 The Fallen by David Baldacci (mystery)
- LP 23448 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis (young adult classic)
- LP 23459 Accidental Heroes by Danielle Steel (romantic suspense)
- LP 23464 Theodore Boone: Kid Lawyer by John Grisham (young adult)
- LP 23482 I've Got My Eyes on You by Mary Higgins Clark (mystery)
- LP 23488 The Outsider by Stephen King (horror)
- LP 23519 Twisted Prey by John Sandford (mystery)
- The Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan (fantasy grades 4-7):
- LP 20814 The Lost Hero
- LP 23411 The Son of Neptune
- LP 23412 The Mark of Athena
- LP 23413 The House of Hades
- LP 23414 The Blood of Olympus

## ORDERING BOOKS FROM TALKING BOOK TOPICS

There are a couple of ways to order your book choices from Talking Book Topics. If you receive the print version, use the order form in the back. Find the corresponding DB number and check it off. Then put it into an envelope addressed to:

Talking Book Services  
1500 Senate St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

If you receive the audio version, it arrives in a small cardboard package. Inside is a regular digital book container and a booklet order form. You may mark the corresponding DB numbers on the order form and then drop it in the mail. When finished with the cartridge, put it back in the container and put in the mail. No card is required. The return address is permanently affixed to the Talking Book Topics container.

No matter what format you receive the Talking Book Topics in, you may choose to phone in your selections. If you do phone in please be ready with the following:

- Name of the person or institution being ordered for (please be prepared to spell the name)
- The five digit numbers of the items you want (example: 86121)
- Correct title or author names (if you do not have the DB number)

Having this information ready will make the ordering process smoother for everyone!

## DONATIONS

We appreciate the generosity of those that 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, S.C. 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.

We would like to thank the following people:

DONORS	
Marquita K. Daniels	Ann P. Skiba
Mary B. Strickland	Mr. and Mrs. Steve Kiba
Juanita Hicks	Louise Duncan
Glenda Bailey	

If you ever feel like you are not receiving all of your books, there are several reasons this might happen:

- ◆ You have caught up with all the books written by your favorite authors.
- ◆ You have overdue items.
- ◆ You are set up as “request only” but have not given us new titles to add to your account.
- ◆ Your desired preferences are too limiting.
- ◆ You are at your book limit and need to return some items.

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

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