

Weekly Highlights from TBBC

June 8, 2020



**TALKING BOOK &
BRAILLE CENTER**

A Message from the State Librarian

As our newsletter heads into the month of June, we have some news to share.

Kaleigh Brendle fought the College Board for not having AP exams in Braille. Well Done, Kaleigh!

We have our first BINGO winner. Alice Grau completed all categories under the letter "I". Congratulations!

Our book club is growing. Stephen has more information inside.

Over the years, the State Library has had authors appear in person to discuss their books. Next week's virtual author talk will feature John Holl. John's book highlights the best recipes from around New Jersey.

Luz's book selections will set everyone up for summertime reading.

In light of everything happening across the nation, I felt that as an organization, it was important that we make a statement to express our concern and support against racism. The statement follows.

Enjoy our newsletter and please continue to be safe.

Thank you,
Mary

Mary L. Chute
New Jersey State Librarian

Community Message from the NJSL Diversity + Inclusion Committee on behalf of State Librarian Mary Chute

Our libraries' doors have now been closed for three months. That feels like a long time, but when you compare all that's happened during this period, twelve weeks isn't very long. Since March, nearly 12,000 New Jerseyans succumbed to Covid-19 complications; communities are hurting in unimaginable ways following the brutal and unjustified killings of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor; and protests erupted in towns statewide and in cities across the United States. This is too much grief and trauma to endure in a lifetime, let alone in a few weeks. But we must go through it — not around it.

As a library community, let's join forces to unequivocally denounce racism, social injustice, health and economic inequality, and violence against people from the Black community. New Jersey is known as one of the most diverse states in the nation. Our libraries have always been committed to respecting our patrons and providing equity of access to all New Jerseyans. Now more than ever, we must double down on these efforts and do everything within our powers to dismantle systemic racism and systematic oppression because these are not our ideals. So, where do we go from here? Let's start by realizing that our Black colleagues, friends, loved ones, and patrons are probably not okay. Please check in with them and with each other. We also need to educate ourselves on how to be anti-racist because being non-racist is not enough.

Some of our libraries have created lists of resources; we urge your libraries to share these or create a similar list that will inform and educate people of all ages within your communities.

Lastly, we must acknowledge that although we all have good intentions, that, too, is not enough. At this moment in time, we must do the difficult but rewarding work of listening to, learning from, and empowering our Black colleagues, friends, and neighbors. Again, we cannot go around this, we must go through it — together.

We are stronger together, so now, let's get to work.

AP EXAMS NOW IN BRAILLE THANKS TO KALEIGH BRENDLE

TBBC patron, Kaleigh Brendle, advocated for herself and fellow blind and deafblind classmates when she fought the College Board for not providing AP Exams in Braille and/or tactile graphics. "The complaints alleged that the students' rights were violated when the College Board instituted a digital-only format for the exams because of the pandemic and did not provide hard-copy Braille tests and/or hard-copy tactile graphics to students who had requested and been granted those accommodations." Thanks to Kaleigh's efforts, along with the help of the National Federation for the Blind, certain blind and deafblind students will now be provided with proper accommodations and will be allowed to retake their exam, if they so choose. Well done, Kaleigh! You can follow Kaleigh on Twitter @livewithkaleigh, and you can [read the entire article here](#).

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALK WITH JOHN HOLL

On June 11th from noon to 1 p.m., the State Library will host a virtual author talk, *Dishing Up New Jersey*, with John Holl.

John Holl is a New Jersey native who searched the 21 counties to find the best recipes New Jersey has to offer. The recipes in the book celebrate the foods, flavors, cultures, and traditions of the Garden

State. Dishes included feature New Jersey's own produce — tomatoes, corn, cranberries, blueberries, apples — along with deep-fried boardwalk treats, diner bites, and recipes contributed by casinos, bison and dairy farms, food trucks, old-school delis, famous bakeries, and more. Recipes in the book include Pork Roll Surprise, Funnel Cake at Home, Tomato and Onion Salad, Jersey Green clam chowder and more. The book reflects the state's melting pot with Italian, Puerto Rican, Polish, Chinese, and Indian dishes. There's also a focus on local produce.

Please register to attend this webinar. If you have questions, contact Cindy Warrick at cwarrick@njstatelib.org. THIS PROGRAM HAS A LIMIT OF 98 ATTENDEES!

TBBC BOOK CLUB

Have you read an amazing book lately and wish you had someone to talk to about it? TBBC will be holding its next Virtual Book Club on Friday, June 12th at 1 p.m. The club's session will be an hour long. This week's suggested theme is "Short Stories", but patrons are invited to join and talk about any book they would like regardless of genre.

You can access the talk with a computer or mobile device. Participants can also call in using the telephone. To register and find out more, call us at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or email us at tbbc@njstatelib.org

TROUBLESHOOTING SUGGESTION FOR BARD ISSUES

Because many of our patrons have recently tried downloading books from BARD for the first time, some may find an error in their talking book player. While there are many issues with different solutions that

may arise with a book player, TBBC would like to offer these basic steps which may resolve an issue you might be having.

1. Turn player off.
2. Press and hold down the “Volume Up,” “Tone Up,” and “Speed Up” buttons.
3. While continuing to hold down all 3 buttons, turn the player on.
4. The player will announce “creating a new profile”.

When these steps are followed, the software that runs the book player will reset. This may resolve some issues that the player may be having. Patrons are still always welcome to reach out to a member of our Reader Service’s team to receive personal assistance with any and all player issues. You can [read more about personal troubleshooting options for your player at the link here](#).

LUZ’S SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

[Place for Us: A Novel DB91422](#)

Mirza, Fatima Farheen. Reading time: 16 hours, 40 minutes.

Read by Sunil Malhotra.

Parents Layla and Rafiq gather their family for their daughter Hadia's wedding—including youngest and only son Amar, who has been estranged from the family for three years. Secrets and resentments bubble forth as the reasons for the fracture of the family are revealed. Unrated. 2018.

[Saint X DB98874](#)

Schaitkin, Alexis. Reading time: 12 hours, 27 minutes.

Read by Shayna Small.

Claire was seven when her college-age sister, Alison, disappeared on their family vacation at a resort on the Caribbean island of Saint X.

Several days later, Alison's body was found. Now, Claire is working in New York City when she encounters one of the men originally suspected of murdering Alison. 2020.

Every Breath DB92510

Sparks, Nicholas; Michael, Sean Cameron; Johansson, Vanessa. Reading time: 9 hours, 14 minutes.

Read by Vanessa Johansson.

Hope Anderson is at a crossroads, with her relationship stalled and her father sick. She decides to take a break in Sunset Beach, North Carolina. She meets Tru Walls, a safari guide from Zimbabwe in town to investigate his family mysteries, and the two share a connection. Some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

The Summer Wives DB91897

Williams, Beatriz. Reading time: 11 hours, 49 minutes.

Read by Kristin Kalbli.

Stories from the 1930s, 1950s, and 1960s unfold as secrets of the residents of Winthrop Island are laid bare. In 1951, Miranda Schuyler joins her mother and stepfamily on the island and falls in love with Joseph Vargas. Nearly twenty years later, she returns to right a wrong. 2018.

Unsheltered DB92948

Kingsolver, Barbara. Reading time: 16 hours, 40 minutes.

Read by Barbara Kingsolver.

One New Jersey house connects two families across time. In the present day, it is home to the Knox family, who question why the success promised to them has never materialized. In the 1800s, science teacher Thatcher Greenwood wonders why utopia eludes him. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

[The Things We Cannot Say DB95768](#)

Rimmer, Kelly. Reading time: 13 hours, 44 minutes.

Read by Ann Marie Gideon

Narrative weaving two women's lives, present and past. Alice struggles as she tries to care for her hospitalized ninety-five-year-old grandmother and autistic child. During World War II, Alina dreams of marrying Tomasz, but as the Nazi occupation unravels the fabric of everyday life, Tomasz disappears. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Then She Was Gone: A Novel DB93135](#)

Jewell, Lisa. Reading time: 10 hours, 13 minutes.

Read by Helen Duff.

Ten years after her teenage daughter, Ellie, disappears, Laurel Mack—now divorced—is trying to put her life back together. But when she becomes involved with a charming single father, his young child reminds her so much of Ellie it causes her to look into the disappearance again. 2018.

[Someone Knows DB94668](#)

Scottoline, Lisa. Reading time: 11 hours, 44 minutes.

Read by Ari Fliakos.

Heading home to the funeral of a childhood friend, Allie Garvey is not only grief-stricken but full of dread—because she'll be seeing two people with whom she shares an unbearable secret. Twenty years earlier, a horrific incident shattered the lives of five teenagers, including Allie. 2019.

[The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West DB95374](#)

McCullough, David G. Reading time: 10 hours, 25 minutes.

Read by John Bedford Lloyd.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of **John Adams** (DB 52275) recounts the settling of the Northwest Territory, which was ceded to the United States by Britain in the Treaty of Paris. Focuses on five key figures and draws on diaries and letters. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[The Book of Gutsy Women: favorite stories of courage and resilience DB97237](#)

Clinton, Hillary Rodham; Clinton, Chelsea. Reading time: 14 hours, 36 minutes.

Read by Chelsea Clinton.

Former secretary of state and First Lady teams up with her daughter to profile women throughout history who have acted courageously in a variety of fields. Individuals discussed include Dorothy Height, Edie Windsor, Diana Nyad, Rachel Carson, Harriet Tubman, Malala Yousafzai, and others. 2019

[Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators DB97040](#)

Farrow, Ronan. Reading time: 10 hours, 45 minutes.

Read by Ronan Farrow.

In 2017, a routine network television investigation by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author revealed that one of Hollywood's most powerful producers was a predator. Describes the surveillance and intimidation tactics deployed by wealthy and connected men to threaten journalists, evade accountability, and silence victims of abuse. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[The Source of Self-Regard: Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations](#)
[DB94081](#)

Morrison, Toni. Reading time: 16 hours, 5 minutes.

Read by Bahni Turpin.

Collection of forty-three essays by the author of *Sula* (DB 08549), *The Bluest Eye* (DB 14892), and *Beloved* (DB 26026). Topics include racism and fascism, literature, women, wealth, Harlem, Martin Luther King Jr., James Baldwin, novelist and poet Chinua Achebe, and director Peter Sellars. 2019.

[The Witches are Coming](#) **[DB97687](#)**

West, Lindy. Reading time: 6 hours, 29 minutes.

Read by Lindy West.

Columnist at *The Guardian* and founder of advice blog *I Believe You, It's Not Your Fault* examines how patriarchy, intolerance, and misogyny have infiltrated American culture. Discusses the link between culture and politics and identifies the media that the author feels planted the seeds of a neoreactionary movement. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

[Siege: Trump Under Fire](#) **[DB95474](#)**

Wolff, Michael. Reading time: 11 hours, 39 minutes.

Read by Holter Graham.

The author of *Fire and Fury* (DB 89802) examines Trump's presidency from the beginning of his second year in office until the delivery of the Mueller report. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2019.

[Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland](#)
[DB94329](#)

Keefe, Patrick Radden. Reading time: 14 hours, 42 minutes.

Read by Matthew Blaney.

In 1972, Jean McConville, a thirty-eight-year-old mother of ten, was dragged from her Belfast home by masked intruders, and her bones weren't found until 2003. Discusses McConville's abduction as well as the rest of the violent Northern Ireland conflict known as the Troubles and its aftermath. 2019

TBBC BINGO'S FIRST WINNER (ALICE GRAU)

We want to congratulate Alice Grau. She's got Bingo! She completed all the items under "I"! Let's get a few more winners.

A TBBC Bingo card is below. We will also have a PDF of the card available where we keep all past issues of this newsletter:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/weekly-newsletter/>

You can enjoy this from the comfort of your own home! Some squares are about reading a book and some are about doing something like signing up for BARD or visiting our website.

Let us know when you complete a row or complete the whole TBBC Bingo card. The first five people to complete a row, and the first three people to complete the whole card, will be recognized and congratulated in our weekly newsletter.

Email us or call us when you've finished a row or finished the whole card. And, if you need suggestions for books to complete this challenge, email us or call us and we'll be glad to suggest some books!

T B B C

B I N G O

Join a book club	Visit the NJ State Library Website www.njstatelib.org	"Like" TBBC on Facebook	Explore a new author	Download a magazine
Read a biography	Read a book by a female author	Read a book by a male author	Read a book set in New Jersey	Sign up for BARD
Set up your security questions on BARD	Download a book	I ♥ TBBC	Re-read a favorite book	Read a book about another culture
Add books to your "wishlist"	Read a non-fiction book	Use BARD Mobile	Try a new recipe	Read a book with a color in the title
Read a book made into a movie	Laughed out loud at a book	Listen to an audiobook	Read a book recommended by a friend or library staff	Read a YA book

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