A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN

This will be my last newsletter message. I will be retiring on January 31st. Jennifer Nelson has been named as the next State Librarian.

I have been reflecting on the past eight years. While I believe that the State Library has made many advances across the state, none has been as positive and fulfilling as the services to you, our TBBC patrons.

You can go to public libraries in almost every county for help to download books and magazines.

TBBC can now send multiple books on a single cartridge and TBBC is now piloting a Braille device that fits into the palm of your hand. Such advances are truly remarkable and will get better.

So as I leave a job I love, I love that you can now get “any book, any time.”

Take care and be safe.

Thank you,

Mary
Mary L. Chute
New Jersey State Librarian
NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARIAN – JENNIFER NELSON

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) announced that Jennifer R. Nelson has been chosen to serve as the new State Librarian for the New Jersey State Library (NJSL), an affiliate of TESU.

TESU President, Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, said “Jen has built a reputation as an active state and national leader in digital inclusion, equity and diversity programming, and technology and data innovation.”

Jennifer Nelson currently serves as the director of Minnesota State Library Services, a division that administers Minnesota’s state and federal programs for libraries and the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library. She provided leadership, consultation and support to the Minnesota library community in planning, developing and implementing high-quality library services statewide. Nelson is also a very active member of the national organization of Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. In this capacity she has recently played a key role in efforts focused on developing the organization’s Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement and advancing efforts in data collection regarding new and evolving library service models. In addition to her state-level work, Nelson also has 20 years of experience at large urban and county libraries.

“I am delighted to be coming to the State Library,” Nelson said. “The staff and services at the New Jersey State Library and the larger New Jersey library community are among the best in the U.S. and it will be a privilege to lead as we move forward from the pandemic to a ‘new normal.’”
“I have family ties to New Jersey, and I’m looking forward to becoming involved in the community,” Nelson added. “As the parent of an adult child with disabilities, I anticipate involvement in the Paralympic sports community in the state.”

**BRAILLE eREADER – UPDATE**

The eReader currently under review by TBBC was designed for NLS by HumanWare. The eReader can hold nearly the same amount of Braille books as we have in our entire library! This unit is only about a quarter of the size of the Braille page.

It has a Perkins-style keyboard, an 8-dot, 20-cell braille display, and comes with a protective carrying case and lanyard.

The eReader can be used as a Braille display for not only JAWS 2020 and later, but also NVDA 2020.1, and Voiceover on Mac (using a USB connection). It can also be paired via Bluetooth to iOS devices as a Braille display. TBBC staff have found these features to be an attractive quality for a device that patrons will appreciate.

There is also a listserv for patrons to discuss and communicate their thoughts on the Braille eReader pilot.

For more information please call TBBC at 800-792-8322, extension 861 and a member of the Reader Services staff will return your call.

**JANUARY’S MOST POPULAR BOOKS ON BARD**

*The Return DB100846* by Nicholas Sparks and read by Kyf Brewer.
When he is sent home from Afghanistan with devastating injuries, the dilapidated cabin Trevor Benson inherited from his grandfather seemed a good place to regroup. Trevor feels a connection with local deputy sheriff Natalie Masterson. Some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

**Thick as Thieves DB100485** by Sandra Brown and read by Kyf Brewer. Twenty years ago, four individuals almost pulled off a half-million-dollar heist. But by daybreak, their plan had been shot to hell. One of them was in the hospital, one in jail, and one dead. However, one got away—presumably with the money. The now-grown daughter of that man decides to investigate. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

**Half Moon Bay DB100241** by Jonathan Kellerman and read by Dennis Boutsikaris. Workers demolishing a local park have made a haunting discovery: the decades-old skeleton of a child. But whose? And how did it get there? No sooner has Clay Edison begun to investigate than he receives a call from a local businessman, wondering if the body could belong to his sister. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

**Robert B. Parker's Fool's Paradise DB100549** by Mike Lupica and read by James Naughton. When a body is discovered at the lake in Paradise, Police Chief Jesse Stone is surprised to find he recognizes the murder victim—the man had been at the same AA meeting as Jesse the evening before. He isn't a local, nor does he have ID on him. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.
Melania and Me: The Rise and Fall of My Friendship with the First Lady DB100957 by Stephanie Winston Wolkoff and read by Stephanie Winston Wolkoff.
The author discusses the long history of her friendship with Melania Trump that predated her marriage to the president. She then recounts the events and accusations that led to the disintegration of their relationship. Includes behind-the-scenes insights into key moments of Melania's tenure as First Lady. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

Is This Anything? DB101088 by Jerry Seinfeld and read by Fiona Hardingham.
The world-famous comedian and star of TV's Seinfeld has selected his favorite material from his long career in stand-up and acting, organized decade by decade. The selections show the evolution of one of his comedy styles and insights into the unforgiving art of writing stand-up comedy. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

Max the Miracle Dog: The Heart-Warming Tale of a Life-Saving Friendship DB100368 by Kerry Irving and read by Stephen Van Doren. Memoir of an English man and the dog that changed his life. Suffering from severe neck and back injuries after a car injury, Kerry was unemployed and housebound, struggling with depression and even thoughts of suicide. He was saved by the friendship of a dog named Max. 2020.

Hoax: Donald Trump, Fox News, and the Dangerous Distortion of Truth DB100892 by Brian Stelter and read by Brian Stelter.
A CNN correspondent examines the relationship between Fox News and President Trump, Trump's extensive viewing of the channel, and the

**Return to Virgin River DB101081** by Robyn Carr and read by Thérèse Plummer.
Author Kaylee hoped to use her work to deal with her grief over her mother's recent death. Instead she has terrible writer's block and a looming deadline. Determined to escape distractions and avoid the holiday season, Kaylee borrows a cabin in Virgin River. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

**Shakeup DB101095** by Stuart Woods and read by Tony Roberts.
Upon returning from a dangerous coastal adventure, Stone Barrington is looking forward to some normalcy with the leading lady in his life. But when a grisly crime arrives on his doorstep, along with some suspicious new clients eager for his help, Stone realizes peace and quiet are no longer an option. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

**Ride the Savage Land DB100950** by William Johnstone and J. A. Johnstone and read by Jack Garrett.
Ace and Chance agree to lead five brides-to-be through dangerous territory, but one of the women has a crazy ex-husband gunning for her. Not to mention the clan of backwoodsmen who hope to steal the women for themselves or the band of Comanche kidnappers. Sequel to *Twelve Dead Men* (DB100066). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

RECOMMENDED CHILDREN’S BOOKS
Middle Grade:

**Becoming Muhammad Ali** by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, DB10145, BR-Coming Soon. For grades 4-7.

**Chance: Escape from the Holocaust** by Uri Shulevitz, DB-Coming Soon.

**Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It** by Andrea Davis Pinkney, BR-Coming Soon, DB-Coming Soon.

**The Silver Arrow** by Lev Grossman, DB100929, BR-Coming Soon. For grades 4-7.

**Ways to Make Sunshine** by Renée Watson, DB100041. For grades 3-6.

**We Dream of Space** by Erin Entrada Kelly, DB99888. For grades 4-7.

**When Stars Are Scattered** by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, DB99879. For grades 4-7.

Young Adult:

**Before the Ever After** by Jacqueline Woodson, DB100643. For grades 5-8.

**The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth** edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, DB-Coming Soon.

**They Went Left** by Monica Hesse, DB99223. For senior high and older readers.
TBBC BOOK CLUB

We want your input for our Book Club! Would you prefer to discuss one book that everyone has read in advance? Or would you prefer to discuss a variety of books read by individual club members?

Give your response by calling us at 800-792-8322 ext. 812 or by emailing us at tbbc@njstatelib.org. Anyone can answer even if you haven’t joined a club meeting yet. If you want to join, our next club meeting is Friday, February 5th at 1 p.m. Find more information and a full list of dates by visiting us online at www.njstatelib.org/talking-book-braille-center/tbbcs-virtual-bookclub/

TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

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