

The Reading Light

Mississippi Library Commission
Talking Book Services
Fall 2016



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Meet Our Staff

You may have heard a new voice on the phone if you have called in the past couple of months. Mary Rodgers Beal is our new reader's advisor ("Mary Rodgers" is her first name). Mary Rodgers has a Bachelor's degree in English and a Masters in Library and Information Science. Mary Rodgers' favorite book is "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen (DB20513). She recently read the hilarious book, "Where'd You Go, Bernadette" by Maria Semple and loved it. (DB075351) We're excited to welcome Mary Rodgers to the Talking Book Services department.

Outreach Services

Recently Talking Book Services Director Shellie Zeigler visited Sunflower County Library in Indianola, MS. She spent time with the Indianola Civic League, explaining the services, who is qualified, and how to sign up. The group was delighted with Zeigler's presentation and many plan to take advantage of the program. One particular lady was curious about something, though. She asked, "Well, how do people find out about this program?" Shellie's answer was our outreach efforts! Talking Book Services staff would love to travel to your Mississippi organization and speak. Zeigler and Outreach Coordinator, Cindy Nugent, are both available to spread the word about our services.

- Lion's Club
- Rotary Club
- Kiwanis
- MS Federation of Women's Clubs
- Other service and civic clubs

- Church groups
- Retirement homes
- Assisted living facilities

If your group is interested in scheduling a presentation, please call 601-432-4123 or email Shellie Zeigler at szeigler@mlc.lib.ms.us.

Book Recommendations

Here are some books that our staff have read and loved. We think you might like them too.

The Amateur Marriage by Anne Tyler. DB57373

This book spans five decades. It starts at the beginning of young lovers Michael and Pauline's courtship. Slowly the marriage falls apart and the reader is able to see all the caution lights that the couple seem to miss. This story will draw you in and leave you missing the characters long after you have finished the last page. Bestseller 2004.

Planet of Exile by Ursula K. Le Guin DB12908

The native people of a planet with an unusually long year form an alliance with a group of Earth descended people who have been stranded there for several generations. The planet's long fall is moving into winter, and both groups of people are threatened by a huge band of marauders who take everything in their path as they migrate south. A lonely young native girl becomes infatuated with a young Earth man, forming an alliance of a very different kind, as their lives change with the season. This is a thought provoking tale in which each of the characters must learn to trust those who are different, and also that all "humans" do not necessarily have to have the same physical appearance. Sometimes, we can learn to celebrate one another's differences. 1978.

The Hopefuls by Jennifer Close DB85096

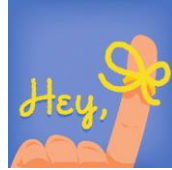
For those of you that haven't had enough of politics and the Washington D.C. atmosphere, this book is right up your alley. The plot revolves around a young couple just starting out in married bliss. However, husband Matt has high political aspirations while wife Beth would be more than happy to leave D.C. behind for a life far away from the constant political chatter. Will their marriage survive after they become best friends with another ambitious couple? Can they handle the jealousy and competition? The plot is fast-paced and appropriate for our current political climate. 2016.

Bookshelf Feature on Digital Players

When a book cartridge or flash drive has several books or magazines on it, the user can jump from book to book or magazine to magazine by using the bookshelf feature.

1. To activate this feature, hold down the green PLAY/STOP button for a few seconds. The machine will announce, "Bookshelf."
2. The REWIND or FAST FORWARD keys can then be used to move backwards and forwards from book to book and magazine to magazine.
3. When the announcement for the desired book or magazine issue is heard, press the green PLAY/STOP key to listen to that particular book or magazine.

Helpful Hints & Reminders



1. When calling the Mississippi Library Commission, please identify yourself as a Talking Book Services patron. This will assist in expediting your calls to the appropriate department.
2. In order to maintain an active status as a BPH patron, one must check out or download one item each calendar year. Maintaining an active status ensures that you receive this newsletter as well as other updates.
3. **Please do not write on the containers, cartridges or the machines.** All of our items are recycled and sent to other patrons after each use. Please help us conserve funds by not damaging our items with writings or added tape.
4. Please retain the box the digital player arrives in. This box can be used to send the item back should you need a replacement or decide to discontinue service. Do not use duct tape on the box. The player can be mailed back to the library via “Free Matter for the blind and physically handicapped.” The free shipping label is marked on the box.
5. You do not need to send back the “**New Patron Packet**” or **used headphones**. They are both yours to keep.



FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

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