



Wolfner Talking Book & Braille Library Celebrates 100 years of Library Service for the Blind



Library services for the blind have a long, rich history in Missouri. In 1924, Dr. Arthur Boswick formed a department for the blind within the St. Louis Public Library system. This was done at the request of the St. Louis Society for the Blind. It wasn't until 1931 that the Pratt-Smoot Act was passed by Congress to establish free library service for blind adult readers and the St. Louis Public Library was selected as one of the first eighteen libraries nationwide to serve blind adults. Two years later, the National Library Service for the Blind's talking book program was initiated to serve readers who could not read Braille, and a uniform system of Braille was created.

In 1936, Dr. Meyer Wiener, an eye specialist and former director for the Prevention of Blindness on the Missouri Commission for the Blind, led a group of St. Louis citizens to raise funds to create a separate library building dedicated to serving the blind. The Henry L. Wolfner Memorial Association, named after Dr. Wiener's late colleague and fellow eye specialist, chose a site at 3842-3844 Olive Street to serve as the first building to house this new Wolfner Library. At this point in history, Wolfner had the second largest accessible collection and the largest children's collection for the blind in the nation. Only the Library of Congress had a larger accessible collection.

In 1963, the State of Missouri began to pay the St. Louis Public Library for the statewide use of Wolfner Library services and in 1968, Wolfner Library became the Talking Book Machine Agency for Missouri. The 1970s were a time of tremendous change for Wolfner Library. It moved locations in St. Louis multiple times before relocating to Jefferson City. In 1977, the Missouri State Library took over the administration of Wolfner Library and in 1985 Wolfner moved to Jefferson City. It wasn't until 1991 that Wolfner moved to our current location at the James C. Kirkpatrick Information Center. For a complete history of Wolfner, you can request MDB00006.

We look forward to the next 100 years of service for Missourians!

Robin



Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Wolfner Offering New Adult Craft Program



Have you signed up for the Adult Mail and Make program?

Participants receive quarterly kits in the mail free of charge. Each kit includes a simple craft, supplies, instructions and a link to an instructional video. These kits are assembled in house by Wolfner staff and are tested to make sure the crafts are fun! Recipients must be Wolfner patrons.

This program is funded by the Friends of the Wolfner Library. Registration is available by phone or online:

Phone toll-free 800-392-2614

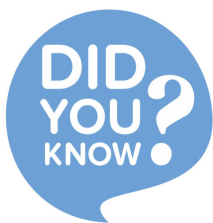
Register online bit.ly/AMM-Register

For further questions please contact Wolfner Library, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. or email jami.livingston@sos.mo.gov.

Adult Winter Reading Program

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library had 27 active readers join in for the Adult Winter Reading Program. Over 456 books have been read by these busy bookworms! Two Amazon Echoes were awarded to our winners in the program. To be eligible for the drawing, they had to read at least five books and log them on Beanstack, our online reading challenge platform. All patrons who completed the reading program received cozy, fuzzy socks just for participating.

The BINGO card theme is a fun way to read different genres and maybe find a new author. Congratulations to all our patrons that completed this year's program! Our Summer Reading Program is just around the corner, be sure to sign up if you like to read and receive prizes.



Cartridge Returns

The best way to ensure you do not run out of books is to return your cartridges as soon as you have read them.

Bard Mobile App

The United States Postal Service works hard delivering audio books to you our patrons, but we do know that there are times you want a book a little bit faster.

If you are a member of Wolfner Library, who has access to a smart device (iPhone, Android, iPad, Fire Tablet), you are eligible to use Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD), which is offered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress.

Registered patrons can use the BARD Mobile app to download books to their favorite smart device. BARD gives users access to all of our talking books and digital braille files at the touch of a button. To register or for more information, contact your Reader Advisor at 800-392-2614.

Youth Summer Reading Program

This summer the “Adventure Begins at Your Library”! Join us as we explore the world around us and the worlds of our imagination. This summer’s plans include presentations on nocturnal animals and fantastic tales, a trivia hunt to follow Wolfie



on a trip around the world, a nature-themed sensory scavenger hunt, crafts and virtual story times. The National Library Service will be hosting a virtual escape room, author visits and game rooms.

The dates for all events will be posted on Wolfner Library’s website at www.sos.mo.gov/Wolfner. To access information on the Youth Summer Reading Program, select “Programs and Events” then navigate down to the Programs for Youth heading.

The Summer Reading Program will run from June 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024 and registration will be on Beanstack beginning May 1. There will be prizes for every patron who logs five or more books and your name will be added to the grand prize drawing for a nice set of headphones! Additional prizes will be awarded for participation in program activities.

If you need assistance with registration or logging your child’s reading, please contact Lisa Kincaid, the Youth Services Specialist, by email lisa.kincaid@sos.mo.gov or phone at 800-392-2614.

Adult Summer Reading Program

The Adult Summer Reading Program theme for this year is “Adventure Begins at Your Library”!



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Sign up will begin mid-May and we will once again use our online platform, Beanstack, to track reading progress. Participants will need to read five books between June 1, 2024 and July 31, 2024 to complete the program.

Join us for virtual adventures as we explore popular landmarks in Missouri using 3-D printer projects, activities and Zoom events. Our prizes and programs are funded by the Friends of the Wolfner Library. Be sure to book some fun this summer and join our reading party! For more information or to sign up please contact Jami Livingston, the Adult Services Librarian, by email jami.livingston@sos.mo.gov or phone at 800-392-2614.



Missouri Secretary of State **Wolfner Library Book Club**

2024 Upcoming Book Club Titles

If you are a Wolfner patron, participate in our weekly book club by dialing in every Thursday at 2:00 p.m., or by using Zoom from a smart device.

Here's a list of books that will be featured for March, April and May, followed by instructions on how to join in:

March 21 — ***The Radium Girls*** by Kate Moore **(DB089743)**

Chronicle of the women employed during World War I as watch dial painters—requiring the use and ingestion of radium-laced paint—and their legal fight for compensation. Discusses the often-gruesome physical deformities and pain the women experienced and their determination to receive justice. Commercial audiobook. 2016. [15 hours, 55 minutes]

March 28 — ***Circe*** by Madeline Miller **(DB090711)**

Circe grows up in the court of her father, the sun god Helios. Despised by her parents and others, she falls in love with a mortal who shuns her. When she takes revenge, she is banished. Those who wish her and others harm are transformed into pigs. Contains some descriptions of sex, some strong language and violence. Commercial audiobook. 2018. [12 hours, 11 minutes]

April 4 — ***The Ends of the World*** by Peter Brannen **(DB087988)**

Examination of the five known mass extinction events in the geologic record and their ties to Earth's carbon cycle. Discusses the dynamics for each event, which species survived and why, and the ways climate change could contribute to another extinction event. 2017. [14 hours, 59 minutes]

April 11 — ***Lord of the Flies*** by William Golding **(DB048388)**

With horrifying implications, a group of English boys are wrecked on a desert island and have to establish their own system of government. For senior high and older readers. [7 hours, 18 minutes]

April 18 — ***When the Mississippi Ran Backwards*** by Jay Feldman **(DB060365)**

Chronicles a series of catastrophic earthquakes in the Mississippi River Valley from 1811 to 1812 that devastated the New Madrid frontier settlement and temporarily reversed the Mississippi's flow. Links the seismologic activity to the Indian Wars, a slave murder committed by Thomas Jefferson's nephews, and the War of 1812. 2005. [10 hours, 47 minutes]

April 25 — ***96 Miles*** by J.L. Esplin **(DB099009)**

After a massive blackout hits rural Nevada, two brothers become desperate and decide to cross a deadly desert in search of help. Commercial audiobook. For grades 6-9. 2020. [8 hours, 2 minutes]

May 2 — ***Call the Midwife*** by Jennifer Worth **(DB076915)**

Autobiography of a woman who trained as a nurse/midwife and served in London's impoverished East End during the 1950s. Describes her sheltered background, life in an Anglican convent, and long hours among poverty-stricken patients. Basis for the PBS series. 2002. [12 hours, 28 minutes]

May 9 — ***The Picture of Dorian Gray*** by Oscar Wilde **(DB056794)**

First published in the late nineteenth century. A beautiful youth has his portrait painted by an artist with a flair for the morbid. The portrait becomes the mirror of its innocent-appearing subject's inner life. Introduction by Edmund White. 1999. [8 hours, 42 minutes]

May 16 — ***Eleanor of Aquitaine*** by Allison Weir **(DB051724)**

Biography of Eleanor of Aquitaine (1122-1204), a feudal heiress who was wed first to King Louis VII of France and later to Henry II—the Plantagenet ruler of England. Describes her marriages and children, her adventures during a Crusade, the rebellion she led with two of her sons, imprisonment and her lifelong political involvement. 1999. [20 hours, 44 minutes]

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May 23 — ***The Cat Who Could Read Backwards*** by Lilian Jackson Braun (**DB034788**)

Jim Qwilleran arrives early for his appointment with the managing editor of the “Daily Fluxion.” His recent employment history is not good, and he really needs this job. But they want him to be an art writer. As Jim begins his assignment, he and his sidekick, KoKo, find themselves hot on the trail of a murder at the art gallery.
[5 hours, 23 minutes]

May 30 — ***Seal of Protection, Collection One*** by Susan Stoker (**DB101211**)

Three novels and a novella of romantic suspense written between 2014 and 2015, featuring a team of Navy SEALs. In Protecting Caroline, a shy chemist and a Navy SEAL meet when terrorists hijack their plane. Also includes Protecting Alabama, Protecting Fiona and Marrying Caroline. Violence, strong language and explicit descriptions of sex. 2015. [22 hours, 43 minutes]

On the day of the book club, join by following the steps below:

Join by Zoom on any smart device:

<https://zoom.us/j/96471504467>

Join by phone by dialing:

312-626-6799

Enter the meeting ID when prompted: 964 7150 4467

For one tap mobile:

[+13126266799, 96471504467# US](tel:+13126266799,96471504467#)

Participants may also call Wolfner via phone to be linked into the meeting.

Call a Reader Advisor

Getting too many books, not enough books or not liking the books and authors you receive. Call a Reader Advisor. An Advisor can adjust your account preferences and help with book selection to get you more materials that you will enjoy. Wolfner patrons have access to Reader Advisors from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Call 800-392-2614 or email us at wolfner@sos.mo.gov.

BARD Download Limits

Beginning Feb. 6, 2024, NLS patrons will be allowed to download no more than 250 books and magazines from BARD in any rolling thirty-day period. This includes both audio and braille titles. It does not matter which platform or combination of platforms are used to download the books and magazines.

The authorization limit is calculated by adding up the number of “unique titles” downloaded. This means you can download the same title on additional devices in the same thirty-day period without that download counting against the authorization limit.

Wolfner Patrons Have Access to NFB Newslines®

NFB-NEWSLINE offers access to over five hundred publications, including newspapers, magazines, breaking news sources, online international newspapers, TV listings, job listings, retail ads and more. You can access NFB-NEWSLINE through various methods, such as the touch-tone telephone, Apple iOS app, website, or Amazon Alexa and customize your preferences and settings. Newsline can enhance your access to information, entertainment and independence. Call a Reader Advisor to register for this FREE service.

Wolfner Library Podcast

Enhance your patron experience as you join us for the latest information, educational resources and engaging interviews with the people working behind the scenes to ensure all Missourians may read. More information coming soon.



Wolfner Library Offers Patrons the Zoomax Electronic Braille Reader



Over 180 Wolfner patrons have received their Zoomax Braille eReader. In addition to its ability to connect to BARD and NFB-Newsline, the device is compatible with several screen readers and works with any Window, Mac or iOS device. It can read books, magazines and files in many formats. You can download braille books from BARD or you can have your books loaded to a cartridge to connect to the display, no internet necessary. Call a Reader Advisor to get yours today at 800-392-2614.

Help Wolfner Get the Word Out

If you know someone who could benefit from our services, have them call a Reader Advisor to see if they are eligible and get the application process started.

We are also happy to discuss our services to church groups, social groups, schools, libraries, assisted living and nursing homes and other organizations. Wolfner Library is here to serve all of Missouri and awareness is our biggest challenge. Please call 800-392-2614 or email wolfner@sos.mo.gov.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Kind Thoughts from Patrons

“I enjoy these books so much! Your program is a life saver from boredom for me thank you so much”

Ava, MO

“I want to thank your organization for your great assistance and your office is so easy and accommodating to work with. It is so nice to see our Missouri tax dollars go towards such a wonderful resource...”

Jackson, MO

“Thank you so very much for your dedication to helping others. We don’t know what mom would have done without your books and easy to use player.”

Leslie, MO

“I have been so happy with all the books I have received—thank you for such a wonderful service—take care.”

Marshfield, MO

Wolfner Library Recording Studios



All books produced by the Wolfner Recording Studios are the result of many hours of service by volunteers who go through a rigorous audition process to record, monitor and review each title. These Missouri-centric titles are uploaded to BARD for the enjoyment of Wolfner patrons and readers across the country.

(Additional studio funding is provided by The Friends of the Wolfner Library.)

Juvenile

And the Bullfrogs Sing: A Life Cycle Begins by David L. Harrison.

Narrated by Griffin Lyskowski.

(DBC29202)

Eggs hatch and become tadpoles. The tadpoles nibble plants. They grow legs and start to breathe. Now they are little bullfrogs. They eat flies, fish and spiders. In the winter they hibernate. And after three years, they are adult bullfrogs. For preschool–grade 2. [9 minutes]

Mortimer's Christmas Manger by Karma Wilson.

Narrated by Loretta Broker, Griffin Lyskowski and John Wegman.

(DBC29198)

Finding the perfect place to live beside the Christmas tree, Mortimer the mouse pushes the people figurines out of the Nativity scene and makes himself at home. For preschool–grade 2. [9 minutes]

No Swimming for Nelly by Valeri Gorbachev.

Narrated by Bella Lyskowski.

(DBC29201)

Nelly loves to wear her swimsuit but the thought of swimming scares her, that is until Grandma, who just so happens to be a swimming champion, helps Nelly realize she has nothing to fear. For preschool–grade 2. [4 minutes]

Rudy and the Snow Goblins by Jeremy Paul Amick.

Narrated by Bella Lyskowski.

(DBC29180)

Chandler and Joey embark upon a grand adventure outdoors and meet a magical elf named Rudy. The three quickly become involved in pursuit of the dreaded Snow Goblins, who have robbed food from the citizens of the elf kingdom. For grades 2–4. [10 minutes]

Saint Louis Boo! by Carolyn Mueller.

Narrated by Griffin Lyskowski.

(DBC29157)

Real-life ghost stories from the streets of St. Louis come to life on the pages of *St. Louis Boo*. These ghost stories may give you goosebumps, but don't worry, just stick with "The Spirit of St. Louis" and you won't be too scared! For grades K–3. [6 minutes]

Adult

Beyond the Ice Cream Cone: The Whole Scoop on Food at the 1904 World's Fair

by Pamela Vaccaro.

Narrated by Melanie Melton.

(DBC29133)

Beyond the Ice Cream Cone tells the authentic story about food at the 1904 World's Fair. It dispels the myths about the ice cream cone, hot dog, and iced tea and informs the reader about the many ways food impacted the Fair and the development of food

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products and companies at that time. It also tells the story of the famous author, cook and dietician, Sarah Tyson Rorer who operated a restaurant at the Fair as well as gave cooking demonstrations to visitors at the Fair. [6 hours, 25 minutes]

Echoes from the Ozarks: Memories of the Missouri Hills by Mark D. Meadows.

Narrated by John Wegman.

(DBC24446)

Mark D. Meadows sees humor everywhere. He was born and raised in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and has spent most of his life there. He has been a librarian, mail-order business owner and clock repairman. In this book you will find descriptions of his hilarious encounters with neighbors, customers, relatives and strangers. There are over seventy anecdotes of horses, dogs, dancing, cooking and numerous other subjects, all told in a witty and readable style. The reader will not be able to stop with one or two stories, but will yearn to see what ridiculous situation is just around the corner in the next tale. [10 hours, 27 minutes]

Kansas City Beer: A History of Brewing in the Heartland by Pete Dulin.

Narrated by Melanie Melton.

(DBC29161)

Food and beer writer Pete Dulin explores Kansas City's hop-infused history and more than sixty breweries from the frontier era to the twenty-first century. [4 hours, 58 minutes]

A People's History of the Lake of the Ozarks by Dan William Peek and Kent Van Landuyt.

Narrated by Marlene Lee.

(DBC29132)

In this lively history of the Lake of the Ozarks, true locals Dan William Peek and Kent Van Landuyt piece together the fascinating story of how the community adapted to the lake that redefined their home. [4 hours, 35 minutes]

Play Me Something Quick and Devilish: Old-Time Fiddlers in Missouri

by Howard Wight Marshall.

Narrated by Loretta Broker.

(DBC29134)

In this book, social history, music history and biography all intermingle to illustrate the rich heritage of fiddle playing in Missouri. [16 hours, 6 minutes]

Weird Missouri: Your Travel Guide to Missouri's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets by James Strait.

Narrated by Tom Steever.

(DBC29122)

Travel guide to Missouri's local legends and best kept secrets. [8 hours, 32 minutes]

iBill Talking Banknote Identifier

Wolfner patrons can receive a free iBill Talking Banknote Identifier. This pocket-sized device, that can be hooked to a key chain, will read the denomination of a bill when it is inserted into the device. Please call a Reader Advisor to obtain an iBill at 800-392-2614 or visit <https://www.bep.gov/services/currency-accessibility/us-currency-reader-program>.



NLS
NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE
FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NLS Programs Accessible by Phone or Zoom



Monthly *Many Faces of BARD*

The Patron Engagement Section of NLS now offers a monthly program called *The Many Faces of BARD* on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Central time. Each monthly event covers one aspect of BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download service). This event is open to all. For more information, please visit <https://loc.gov/nls/about/services/many-faces-of-bard> or call a Wolfner Reader Advisor at 800-392-2614.

Quarterly Patron Corner Program

As part of the Patron Engagement Section's (PES) mission to offer services, resources and programs to enrich the library experience for patrons, a quarterly Patron Corner virtual event will be hosted so patrons can learn more about various services directly from NLS staff. The quarterly Patron Corner occurs on the second Monday of December, March, June and September at 6:00 p.m. Central time. Previous program recordings can be accessed at www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/patron-corner/. Please call a Reader Advisor for more information.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Upcoming Holidays

As a reminder to patrons, Wolfner Library will be closed on the following holidays:

- Wednesday, May 8 Truman Day
- Monday, May 27 Memorial Day
- Wednesday, June 19 Juneteenth

Wolfner Library Donations

Donations to Wolfner Library may be made to the Wolfner Trust Fund or The Friends of Wolfner Library.

Mail to: Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library
PO Box 387
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Friends of Wolfner Library
PO Box 24834
Kansas City, MO 64131

For information on how to become a Friend of Wolfner Library you can email wellsjerry9@gmail.com or phone 816-678-1257.

Wolfner Staff Listing

Director

Robin Westphal, State Librarian

Public Services Team

Lori Brown, Director of Public Services
Lisa Kincaid, Youth Services Specialist
Jami Livingston, Adult Services Librarian
Brandon Kempf, Reader Advisor
Vanessa Lengyel, Reader Advisor
Meghan McCormack, Reader Advisor
Kenna Tervo, Reader Advisor

Circulation Team

Verhonda Winters, Director of Circulation
Stacy Jo Butler, Circulation Tech IV
Germone Williams, Tech I
Emma Deuschle, Circulation
Justin Stauffer, Circulation

Production Team

Brandon Lammers, Volunteer and
Recording Studio Manager
Chris Cowan, Tech IV
Tim Emmel, Tech III
Germone Williams, Tech I