

This newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Texas Talking Book Program for recording studio volunteers and staff. If you have comments or suggestions, please email Ruth Wedergren, TBP Public Awareness Coordinator at rwedergren@tsl.state.tx.us.

Calendar

Studio closings:
Christmas:
Dec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
New Year's: closing at
noon Dec. 31; Jan. 1

Studio Statistics

255 Sept hours
40 Sept active volunteers
325 Oct hours
39 Oct active volunteers

Studio Hours

Mon - 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Thurs
Fri 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Talking Book Program
Texas State Library & Archives
Commission
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Volunteer Recording Studio News

November/December 2013 • Volume 2, Number 4
Texas Talking Book Program
Texas State Library and Archives Commission • Austin, TX



Holiday Closings

In keeping with TSLAC closing dates for the week of Christmas, TBP volunteer studios will be closed Dec. 24 - 28. TSLAC offices and TBP studios will close at noon on Dec. 31 and be closed Jan. 1. Regular hours resume on Jan. 2. ■

Local Book Gets Top Reviews from NLS Pilot Project

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall, narrated by Staci Thompson and monitored by Kerry Pivonka, received top reviews from the National Library Service (NLS). Studio Manager Miles Lewis submitted the book for the NLS "local books on BARD pilot project." BARD is the Braille and Audio Reading Download service. The pilot project will lead to local books being available for download nationally.

NLS commented that the technical quality was high. "Sound quality is excellent. Brief audio samples from all sixty-seven chapters were examined and recording levels were found to be robust and consistent.

Background noise is virtually non-existent. Edit points are unobtrusive with the narrative flow and audio continuity well maintained as corrected material is integrated."

Narration also received praise. "Narrator Staci Thompson does an excellent job with this book. She maintains steady projection energy and mic proximity, which helps to ensure consistent recording levels. Furthermore, she articulates clearly without sounding overly precise. All of this said, Thompson's interpretive skills are the real asset here: She's very well matched to this story and skillfully conveys the first-person "voices" of its two principal characters, who also happen to be the book's co-authors. Character nuances and dialects are faithfully rendered with ease and authority at every turn, making for a compelling read.... Overall, this book's narration is well above average in the world of locally produced books."

What's the next step? Lewis says, "Shortly, we will incorporate two minor changes (that are technical requirements) into the file structure of this audio-book while we await our username and password so that we may upload the book to the BARD site. Presumably, there will be a brief interval between the date of upload and when the book finally goes 'live' on the download site."

Welcome New Studio Volunteers

The Talking Book Program welcomes new volunteers Sue Combs, Ken Fiduk, and Christine McAllister. Welcome aboard! ■

★ Texas State Library and Archives Commission ★



Volunteers Talk About Favorite Authors

Stephen Flynn: *There are some authors I'm trying to read everything they've written (Avram Davidson, Walter Jon Williams), but no one favorite author.*

Ric Furley: *Jeffrey Archer and Tom Robbins.*

John Long: *Gabriel García Márquez.*

Billy Brookshire: *I like lots of folks: Larry McMurtry, Mark Twain, Pat Conroy, Barbara Kingsolver, Harper Lee, Ken Kesey, Michael Connoley, and many others. I read 2 or 3 books a week. What's a retired guy to do?*

Sandy Litschi: *Isabel Allende.*

Lauren Johnson: *My favorite female author is Jane Austen without a doubt. It is just too bad she didn't get to produce a lot of books. My favorites: Pride & Prejudice and Persuasion.*

Ev Lunning Jr.: *It's a tie between William Faulkner and Mark Twain.*

Tim Lance: *Morris West even if none of his books would be in the top 5 on my "Best of" list.*

Donnell O'Brien: *Really, too many from which to choose. That said, James Joyce, Robert Heinlen, Frank Herbert, Tom Robbins, Samantha Power, Barton Gellman, Schopenhauer, Martin Buber, Paul Tillich, Henry Fairlie.*

Sue Bilich: *My favorite authors are Sharon Kahn, Joe Lansdale and McEnernie; there are others.*

Lionel Jacobs: *Greg Isles, Patterson, Daniel Silva, David Baldacci.*

New / Digitized Books Completed and Circulating

ABC of Relativity by Bertrand Russell. Narrator: Jean Fensky.

All the Earth, Thrown to the Sky by Joe R. Lansdale. Narrator: Sue Bilich; monitor: John Wood.

The Boy Kings of Texas: A Memoir by Domingo Martinez. Narrator: Cindy Johnson; monitor: Stephanie Childs.

Dancing Bear by James Crumley. Narrator: Stephen Biles; monitor: Craig York.

Edge of Dark Water by Joe R. Lansdale. Narrator: Timothy Englert; monitor: Leanne Englert.

Sam Houston by James L. Haley. Narrator: Dianna Dorman; monitors: Lionel Jacobs, Craig York.

Scream at the Sky: Five Texas Murders and One Man's Crusade for Justice by Carlton Stowers. Narrator: Jack Gazzale; monitor: Trish Speight.

Those Like Us: Stories by Christopher Lowe. Narrator: Staci Thompson; monitor: Kerry Pivonka.

Torpedoes in the Gulf: Galveston and the U-Boats, 1942-1943 by Melanie Wiggins. Narrator: Jack Gazzale; monitor: Jeanne Guichard.

Earle, Manager of Circulation and Machine Services.

Carol Swarz: *Not sure, but my daughter, Karen MacInerney, is an author - so I am partial to her!!* ■

FY13 Facts and Figures from Circulation and Machine Services

The Talking Book Program relies on many dedicated people—paid staff and volunteers—to function properly. The Circulation and Machine Services Department makes sure books keep moving out to patrons and back in again for the next patron. Every book that leaves the warehouse is taken off the shelf by a human hand, and when it comes back, it is checked by hand, then scanned back into inventory, ready for the next time a patron requests it. Machines are distributed and repaired in this department as well. To give you a taste of what happens at the Circulation Facility on Shoal Creek Boulevard, here are some facts and figures from Fiscal Year 2013, courtesy of Edward

- 3,468 books and magazines were sent through the U.S. Mail per day.
- 856,427 books and magazines were sent to patrons.
- 32,430 books were returned broken.
- Volunteers logged 8,974 hours at Circulation.
- 1,624,362 books/magazines were scanned into location.
- Circulation served 5,438 patrons (new, old and repeats) in Machines. ■

