

HAWAI‘I STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

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JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM LBPD-HONOLULU

Aloha Kākou Dear Readers,

It's high summer and all of us here at LBPD send our best greetings out to you for the season. It is hard to believe that the year is more than halfway over at this point, and based on all the stories and comments we're getting at the library, it sure seems like many of you have been keeping very busy. All of us here enjoy hearing your news of travel, work projects, updates on favorite hobbies, outtakes from the several national association conventions, and many other things. We are especially excited about all the great reading that so many of you are doing, and we're keeping our fingers crossed for some prize winners in the Hawai'i State Public Library System Summer Reading Challenge program. Through all of it your LBPD staff continues to strive to provide access to the reading materials and information resources you want and need. Don't ever hesitate to let us know how we can best service your information and reading needs. In this edition you'll find library updates from both the local and national level, and in particular some important information about upgrades to BARD. If you are a BARD user, please take a look at the NLS section below. Here's to many hours of happy reading in the coming days. Mahalo nui loa, Matthew Brown

HAWAI'I LBPD UPDATE

- Summer reading challenge: We're getting some great numbers posted to the LBPD book counter for this year's statewide Summer Reading Challenge "E Heluhelu Kākou: Mele," so please don't stop reading. The competition continues through the end of July, and the benefits of reading throughout the year are real. Our Mele-themed kanikapila (jam session) at the library on June 20 was so much fun, and I'm certain we'll have more opportunities to share in this kind of musical gathering in the future.
- Computer and technology classes: The first round of three sets of monthly computer and technology classes wrapped up in May at LBPD and other libraries all around the state. Based on this first experience of statewide tech offerings the State Librarian is working toward a new set of tech training opportunities that likely include both group and individual, one-on-one time with a digital navigator. More information will be coming out about these sessions after the summer.
- Book club: The monthly thematic book club continues the first Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm at the library, except for this July when we're meeting on the 12th because of the holiday. Each month a theme is selected for the next book club meeting, and remarkably the theme for the June book club was "music," a great fit with our Summer Reading Challenge. The theme drawn for the July session was "philosophy," a theme that perhaps is a bit more of a challenge. However, at least one book club participant contemplated combining the June and July themes together along the lines of the philosophy of music. It all sounds like fun. Please join us at the library on July 12!
- Dungeons and Dragons: On June 21 the library hosted a Dungeons and Dragons demo, the first of a number of these sessions notionally planned for the third Saturday of the month. First played in the 1970s, Dungeons and Dragons is a creative and fun way to explore the world of

fantasy tabletop gaming while at the same time enjoying the company of friends. The June session drew from a Hobbit-based scenario, and attendees had a ball. Call the library for more information about the July event and theme. You'll have a great time! If you would like to read up on Dungeons and Dragons here are some digital audio books available through NLS: DB 91838 – Player's Handbook; DB 91839 – Dungeon Master's Guide; and DB 91840 – Monster Manual.

NEWS FROM NLS AND THE NETWORK

- BARD 2: BARD, the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download website, now offers expanded functionality and will serve as a gateway to exciting new services in the future. NLS is pleased to announce that if you use BARD on the web, you will have access to BARD 2 in late July. If you're not a BARD user, this is your chance to sign up for the service and get instant access to hundreds of thousands of audio and braille books and magazines for reading with an NLS digital talking-book machine, a personal smart device with BARD Mobile, a Braille eReader, or your PC with the BARD Express player. Contact Hawai'i LBPD at 808-733-8444, or olbcirc@librarieshawaii.org to sign up for BARD. Features of the new website include:
 - Reorganization of the Wish List, Reading History, Subscriptions, and Account Settings under one menu.
 - New sorting capabilities of book lists. You can now search through book lists and refine the results by format, language, and subject.
 - An updated search engine, so finding books is easier and faster than ever before.
 - Advanced search functionality.

Access to the new and improved BARD website requires a change in your login procedures. Library staff will be in contact with all BARD web users to provide instructions for the new login procedures. If you have any questions, need assistance, or just want to tell us about your experience with BARD 2, contact Hawai'i LBPD at 808-733-8444, or olbcirc@librarieshawaii.org

- New NLS Catalog: The NLS recently updated their catalog to include some new features and methods for searching for the reading materials you want to enjoy. The catalog is available here: <https://nlscatalog.loc.gov/> If you have questions about using the catalog, please don't hesitate to contact Hawai'i LBPD at 808-733-8444, or olbcirc@librarieshawaii.org
- New Digital Talking Book Machine, the DA2: Hawai'i LBPD staff has started to go through training for the new DA2 digital talking book machine. Once training is complete the library will be certified to make the new machines available to patrons who would like to trade out the current models, although there is no requirement to do so. The new model includes a wifi feature that will allow the reader to directly access their BARD bookshelf in addition to using the traditional talking book cartridges used in the current version of the machine. The library will keep you posted as the machines are received and prepared for distribution.
- National Summer Reading Program: The NLS Summer Reading Program is in full swing with exciting guest speakers, author talks, and other fun activities. These events are fully accessible online at: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/services-and-resources/summer-reading/> The program will run through Friday, August 15.
- Ongoing NLS forums and online resources: NLS continues to offer monthly online forums and recordings of past sessions on the website at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/> Some of these topics include: The Many Faces of BARD at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/many-faces-of-bard/> ; Braille E-Reader forum at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/that-all-may-eread/> ; and a special opportunity to participate in a smart speaker pilot with Alexa Skill at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/smart-speaking-to-the-smart-speaker/>.

IN OTHER NEWS

- **Assistive Technologies:** Are you interested in trying out an assistive device, or maybe some new technology? There are organizations and people that can help you with this effort. One such group is the Assistive Technology Resource Center of Hawai'i, or ATRC. Jason Julian can set up a demonstration for you of various types of devices, and he may be reached at 808-532-7111. For loans of assistive technology, Jen Brazee runs the ATRC equipment lending library. Jen's phone number is: 808-532-7115.
- **Outdoor Fun:** Do you enjoy the outdoors, exploring new environs, and meeting fun people in the process? If so, then Travel Visions Aloha may be just the ticket for you. Marri Murdoch runs monthly events including fitness programs, and the group is planning for a barbeque and beach day on July 26. You can reach Marri through the website at: www.travelvisionsaloha.org
- **Emergency Preparedness:** Now that we are well into the annual hurricane season, it is a good time to remember to start preparing for an emergency well before anything happens. The Hawai'i State Emergency Management Agency, or HIEMA, provides many tips and good advice that should be heeded now. Their website has a wealth of information at: <https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/public-resources/preparedness-information/> For those with disabilities, HIEMA offers additional guidance at: <https://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/public-resources/special-needs-information/> It is important to note that the Disability Communications Access Board, or DCAB has also cited critical information across the state for future disaster planning. These factors are important and worthy of discussion with family and friends. Here's a link to the information from DCAB: <https://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/emergency/> Don't forget, the Emergency Preparedness Manual is available from the library in audio format: HDB 27611.

NEW AND SEASONAL READS – MULTIPLE FORMATS

Following are some books that were recently added to the NLS and LBPD collections that you might enjoy as we continue with the Summer Reading Challenge:

- **Amendment of Life** [braille fiction] – BR 25475 - When a body is found in the center of a Tudor-era yew maze, Detective Inspector C.D. Sloan is placed in charge of a disturbingly complex case, by Catherine Aird.
- **Three-Inch Teeth** [braille fiction] - BR 25482 - A rogue grizzly bear has gone on a rampage, and Dallas Cates is released from prison with a special list tattooed on his skin. He wants revenge on the people who sent him away: the six people he blames for the deaths of his entire family and the loss of his reputation and property. Using the grizzly attacks as cover, Cates sets out to methodically check off his list. The problem is, both Nate Romanowski and Joe Pickett are on it, by C.J. Box.
- **The Burning** [braille fiction]: - BR 25682 – Chief of Police Kate Burkholder investigates a gruesome murder that reveals a little-known chapter of early Amish history in this next riveting installment of the bestselling series by Linda Castillo, by Linda Castillo.
- **The Joy of Well-Being: A Practical Guide to a Happy, Healthy, and Long Life** [braille non-fiction] - BR 25000 - True well-being isn't something you chase, it is something you weave together, as each new day presents an opportunity to make choices that support feeling good in your body, in your relationships, and in your life, by Colleen Wachob.

- **Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience** [braille non-fiction] - BR 24796 – The author takes us on a journey through eighty-seven of the emotions and experiences that define what it means to be human, by Brené Brown.
- **On Savage Shores: How Indigenous Americans Discovered Europe** [braille non-fiction] - BR 25525 – A landmark work of narrative history that shatters our previous Eurocentric understanding of the Age of Discovery by telling the story of the Indigenous Americans who journeyed across the Atlantic to Europe after 1492. We have long been taught to presume that modern global history began when the "Old World" encountered the "New", when Christopher Columbus "discovered" America in 1492. But, as Caroline Dodds Pennock conclusively shows in this groundbreaking book, for tens of thousands of Aztecs, Maya, Totonacs, Inuit and others--enslaved people, diplomats, explorers, servants, traders--the reverse was true: they discovered Europe, by Caroline Dodds Pennock.
- **Hold Strong** [sound recording fiction] - DB 129597 - Sam Carlson is a projectionist in small-town Minnesota, where fantasies unspool in glorious black and white--for him and for his sweetheart, college-bound math whiz Sarah Haber. When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, Sam is sent to the Philippines and captured as a POW. Brutalized but unbroken by the Bataan Death March and POW camps, Sam is one of eighteen hundred starved and weakened prisoners herded into the cargo hold of a barbaric hell ship called the Arisan Maru, his survival doubtful. Determined to use her math skills on the home front, Sarah is recruited to Washington, DC, into the covert field of code breaking. When Sarah intercepts a message about a Japanese convoy, the US Navy's mission is clear: sink the Arisan Maru and send it to the bottom of the South China Sea. Now, the lives of the two young lovers are about to inadvertently collide in one of the most shocking acts of World War II, by Robert Dugoni.

- **Into the Gray Zone** [sound recording fiction] - DB 129730 - While on a routine security assessment in India, Taskforce operator Pike Logan foils an attempted attack on a meeting between the CIA and India's intelligence service. Both government agencies believe it's nothing more than a minor terrorist attack, but Pike suspects that something much more sinister is at play, by Brad Taylor.
- **The Tenant** [sound recording fiction] – DB 129492 - There's no place like home... Blake Porter is riding high, until he's not. Fired abruptly from his job as a VP of marketing and unable to make the mortgage payments on the new brownstone he shares with his fiancé, he's desperate to make ends meet. Enter Whitney. Beautiful, charming, down-to-earth, and looking for a room to rent. She's exactly what Blake's looking for. Or is she? Because something isn't quite right, by Freida McFadden.
- **Shadow of Solstice** [sound recording fiction] - DB 129500 - The Navajo Nation police are on high alert when a U.S. Cabinet Secretary schedules an unprecedented trip to the little Navajo town of Shiprock, New Mexico. The visit coincides with a plan to resume uranium mining along the Navajo Nation border. Tensions around the official's arrival escalate when the body of a stranger is found in an area restricted for the disposal of radioactive uranium waste, by Anne Hillerman.
- **Henry V: The Astonishing Triumph of England's Greatest Warrior King** [sound recording non-fiction] - DB 129221 - In 1413, when Henry V ascended to the English throne, his kingdom was hopelessly torn apart by political factions and partisanship. Public finances and law and order were in a state of crisis. Pirates tormented the coast; plots, conspiracies, and heresy threatened society. The lingering effects of the worst pandemic in human history continued to menace daily life. And then, in less than ten years, Henry turns it all around, by Dan Jones.
- **My Next Breath: A Memoir** [sound recording non-fiction] - DB 128997 - In this debut memoir, Jeremy describes in

blistering detail his accident and the aftermath. This retelling is not merely a gruesome account of what happened to him; it's a call to action and a forged companionship between listener and author as Jeremy recounts his recovery journey and reflects on the impact of his suffering. Ultimately, Jeremy's memoir is a testament to the human spirit and its

- capacity to endure, evolve, and find purpose in the face of unimaginable adversity. His writing captures the essence
 - of profound transformation, exploring the delicate interplay between vulnerability and strength, despair and hope, redemption and renewal, by Jeremy Renner.
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- **The Woman Who Knew Everyone: The Power of Perle Mesta, Washington's Most Famous Hostess** [sound recording non-fiction] – DB 129450 - Perle Mesta was a force to be reckoned with. In her heyday, this wealthy globe-trotting Washington widow was one of the most famous women in America, garnering as much media attention as Eleanor Roosevelt. Renowned for her world-class parties featuring politicians and celebrities, she was very close to three presidents-Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson, by Merle Gordon.
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- **The Blue Book: A Must-See, Can't-Miss, Won't Forget Guide to Nantucket** [sound recording non-fiction] - DB 129623 - The Blue Book offers readers practical, fun, insider tips: from drive-on beaches to late-night dance bars; from romantic getaways to family outings; from where to find the best oysters to where to buy the best beach towel. Interspersed with scenes from Elin's novels set at the locations she recommends, by Elin Hilderbrand.
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- **The Waiting** [large type fiction] – LT 15268 - Detective Renée Ballard, with new volunteer Maddie Bosch, investigates a serial rapist linked through DNA to a man recently arrested. The suspect's father, the infamous Pillowcase Rapist, is a long-silent terror. As Ballard faces legal hurdles and her badge is stolen, she must seek help from Harry Bosch. Meanwhile, Maddie's ulterior motives come to light as she joins Ballard's cold case unit, complicating the investigation further, by Michael Connelly.

- **You'll Find Out** [large type fiction] – LT 15320 – Combines “The Shadow of Time,” and “Gypsy Wind,” both released in 1984, in a single volume, by Lisa Jackson.
- **Beach Vibes** [large type fiction] – LT 15326 - What would you do if you caught your brother cheating on your best friend? While Beth is proud of her Malibu beach shop, Surf Sandwiches, she's even prouder of her charismatic brother Rick, who rose from foster care through surgical residency. She makes subs, he saves lives. Life takes a turn for the happy after she finds out Rick is dating her new best friend, Jana. Then Jana's handsome brother adds even more sparkle to Beth's days...and nights. But when she catches Rick with another woman--like, with-with--her visions of an idyllic family future disappear in one awful instant. Either she betrays her brother, or she keeps his secret and risks losing the man she loves and her best friend, by Susan Mallery.
- **The Librarians of Lisbon** [large type fiction] – LT 15330 – Best friends librarians Selene and Beatrice are recruited by the US during World War II to catalog the vast amounts of information collected by the Allied Powers in Lisbon. Unofficially they are involved in the underworld of espionage and deception in the city at the height of the war, by Suzanne Nelson.
- **The House of Cross** [large type fiction] – LT 15333 - Supreme Court candidates are being murdered--and only Alex Cross and John Sampson can take the case in The House of Cross, by James Patterson.
- **Countdown 1960: The Behind the Scenes Story of the 312 Days That Changed American Politics Forever** [large type non-fiction] – LT 15341 – Chronicles the candidacy and eventual election of John F. Kennedy to the US Presidency in 1960, by Chris Wallace.
- **5 Ingredient Cookbook: Quick and Easy 5 Ingredient Recipes** [large type non-fiction] – LT 15343 – Making

homemade meals at the end of a busy workday can be overwhelming. Using fewer ingredients is the solution, by Louise Davidson.

- **The Name of this Band is R.E.M.** [large type non-fiction] – LT 15347 - In this rich, intimate biography, critically acclaimed author Peter Ames Carlin looks beyond the sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll to open a window into the fascinating lives of four college friends - Michael Stipe, Peter Buck, Mike Mills and Bill Berry - who stuck together at any cost, until the end, by Peter Ames Carlin.
- **Bandit Heaven: The Hole-in-the-Wall Gangs and the Final Chapter of the Wild West** [large type non-fiction] – LT 15348 – Robbers Roost, Brown's Hole, and Hole in the Wall were three hideouts that collectively were known to outlaws as "Bandit Heaven." During the 1880s and 1890s these remote locations in Wyoming and Utah harbored hundreds of train and bank robbers, horse and cattle thieves, and anyone with a price on their heads, by Tom Clavin.
- **Cher: The Memoir; Part 1** [large type non-fiction] – LT 15352 – After more than seventy years of fighting to live her life on her own terms, Cher finally reveals her true story in intimate detail in a two-part memoir.

As a reminder, LBPD makes DVDs with descriptive audio available for loan as well. Give us a call if you are interested in this service.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

LBPD will be closed on the following holidays:

- Friday, August 15 – Statehood Day
- Monday, September 1 – Labor Day

FINAL NOTES

On behalf of your entire LBPD staff and our volunteers here in Honolulu, we wish you a fantastic rest of your summer. As you continue with your seasonal activities, please take time to read and enjoy the many diverse materials and programs available through your library. If there is something that you would like to read, and it isn't available in your preferred format, please let us know as we have options for making materials available. Even if there aren't any special request, please give us a call anyway so we can catch up with you.

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