

# Winter 2024 Newsletter

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!  
Oh, the weather outside is frightful!  
But books are so delightful.  
And since we've no place to go.  
Read a book, read a book, read a book!

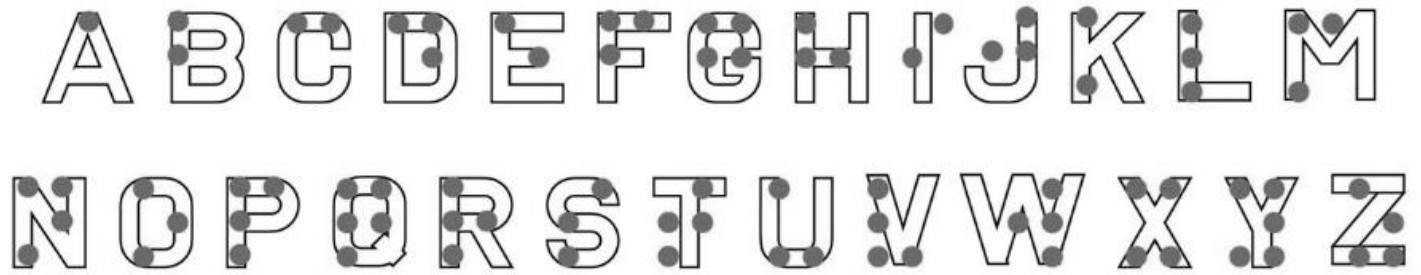


Dear Great Lakes Talking Book patrons,  
This newsletter contains information about Braille Literacy Month and the Great Michigan Read along with service updates, book suggestions, and patron counts by county.

Let us dispel the myth that the talking book service is just for blind and visually impaired Senior Citizens. If someone (of any reading age) is unable to read standard print, they are eligible for our free service. Eligibility includes anyone who requires large print, has a reading disability (e.g., dyslexia), has a (temporary or permanent) physical disability that prevents them from holding a book or turning a page (e.g., carpal tunnel, stroke, palsy, MS), or has troubles focusing on the printed page (e.g., blurred vision, eye floaters, dry eyes, eye strain).

Great Lakes Talking Books is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 – 5 pm. To refer a friend, ask a question, request a book, or get help finding something good to read, please call 906-228-7697 Ext. 0, or email [tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org](mailto:tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org).  
Thank you, Tonia Bickford

# January is Braille Literacy Month



From Perkins.org, “January 4th is recognized internationally as World Braille Day to honor the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of the code. In addition to the annual worldwide celebration, in the United States January is Braille Literacy Month, which is used to raise awareness regarding braille literacy. In support of the month-long celebration, we are sharing six fun facts about braille below:

- Louis Braille was 15 years old when he invented braille.
- Braille is a tactile code, not a language. In fact, many languages including English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic can be written and read in braille.
- A braille cell is made up of six raised dots.
- Every letter, number, punctuation, and symbol can be written in braille (including musical notes)! Braille can also change the typographical emphasis of a word or sentence (bold, italics, etc.)
- Braille takes more space than printed text, therefore the Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary is 72 Volumes in braille!
- There are two “levels” of braille. Uncontracted braille, where each letter is represented by a braille cell, and contracted braille, a “shorthand” version of braille, where common letter combinations or words are represented by one or more cells.”

## **Service Update: BARD and Kindle Fire Devices**

Patrons have asked about using BARD mobile on their Kindle Fire devices. We asked NLS and the official word is that Kindle Fire devices need to be running Fire Operating System (OS) 7 or later, which means eighth generation or later.

Furthermore, if someone is buying a new Fire tablet, NLS recommends that they get one running something higher than the minimum so it will be compatible for longer with BARD Mobile. If you have any questions, please call 906-228-7697 Ext. 0, or send an email to [tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org](mailto:tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org).

## **Service Update: Audio Magazine Delays**

NLS continues to experience delays with the distribution of audio magazines on cartridges. The delays have impacted the distribution of Talking Book Topics (TBT), the bi-monthly audio magazine of newly available books. For example, the recent distribution of July/August TBT was coupled with the September/October TBT. This resulted in a group of patrons receiving both the July/August TBT and September/October TBT on the same cartridge, accompanied with only one order form, a July/August TBT order form.

If you need an order form call 906-228-7697 Ext. 0, email [tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org](mailto:tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org), or download and print the order form at <https://www.loc.gov/nls/new-materials/talking-book-topics/>.

## **New Magazine: Harvard Men's Health Watch**

There is a new audio magazine in the NLS collection, brought to you by volunteers and staff of the Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library.

Title: Harvard Men's Health Watch

Magazine Code: HMH4

Frequency: Monthly

Let the doctors and researchers at the Harvard Medical School show you the way to a longer, healthier, happier life in the pages of Harvard Men's Health Watch. Each month supplies updates on the latest health research and advances that will affect and improve Men's health. Easy-to-read, clear, and concise, Harvard Men's Health Watch is full of actionable advice one can incorporate immediately into their daily routine.

## **Book News**

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### **Announcing the 2023-2024 Great Michigan Read**

There is a new Great Michigan Read, selected by Michigan Humanities, a thriller written by a Michigan author.

**DB102762 / BR24040** - Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley. Follow Daunis, who is part Ojibwe who defers college to care for her mother, witnesses a murder, then uses her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe medicine to investigate. Unrated. For senior

high readers and adults. Youth Native American Fiction, Suspense Adult Fiction, Ojibwe Fiction, Michigan Fiction.

Firekeeper's Daughter is available for download on BARD. Call 906-228-7697 Ext. 0, or email [tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org](mailto:tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org) to request the audio or braille copy by mail.

From Michiganhumanities.org, "the Great Michigan Read creates a statewide discussion around a Michigan themed book. Through partnerships with libraries, schools, book clubs, and a wide range of other non-profit organizations, the Great Michigan Read facilitates statewide reading and programs to bridge communities around a common conversation."

**Mark your calendars!** There are two Great Michigan Read book discussions in the Upper Peninsula in April 2024.

All events are free and open to the public and registration is not required. Questions? Please contact Maurice Imhoff at [mimhoff@mihumanities.org](mailto:mimhoff@mihumanities.org).

- Saturday, April 13, 2024, 7:00PM at the Public Libraries of Saginaw in the Pit & Balcony Theater
- Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:30PM at the Portage District Library, Portage in the Portage Senior Center
- Thursday, April 25, 2024, (Time TBD) at the Ironwood Carnegie Library, Ironwood (Upper Peninsula)
- Friday, April 26, 2024, 5:00PM at the Portage Lake District Library, Houghton (Upper Peninsula)

## **Speaking of Ojibwe Fiction, Check out the Latest Book by Louise Erdrich**

**DB115437** - Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country by Louise Erdrich. Storytelling with visions of the natural splendor of the lakes and islands of southern Ontario where Louise Erdrich's ancestors lived. A land full of sacred spirits, language, songs, stone paintings, and books. Strong language and descriptions of sex.

## **New Upper Peninsula Mystery Fiction**

**DB112123** – Edge of Dusk by Colleen Coble: An Annie Pederson Novel, book 1. Annie, a law-enforcement officer, still blames herself for her sister's disappearance, twenty-four years earlier. Annie lives with her daughter in Rock Harbor where she discovers a body floating in Lake Superior, investigates, and uncovers secrets from the past. Unrated. Religious/Mystery Adult Fiction, Upper Peninsula Fiction

**DB116503** - Dark of Night by Colleen Coble: An Annie Pederson Novel, book 2. Annie is deciding if a woman is really her long, lost sister while balancing life with her eight-year-old daughter and the investigation of a missing hiker. Religious/Romance/Suspense Adult Fiction, Upper Peninsula Fiction

**DBC24877** - The Weaver's Revenge, a Chloe Ellefson Mystery by Kathleen Ernst. Chloe Ellefson heads to the Upper Peninsula to help setup a Finnish American historic site. Chloe's hopes to focus on rag weaving are dashed by a dead body and ensuing

investigation. Adult. Unrated. Adult Mystery, Religious Fiction, and Upper Peninsula Fiction.

## Michigan Books for Kids

**DBC05941** – Bear Has a Story to Tell by Philip C. Stead. Bear remembers a story he wants to tell before the Winter sleep. A 2013 Michigan Notable book. For preschool – grade 2.

**DBC11076** – The Legend of the Lady Slipper by Kathy-jo Wargin. A Winter Ojibwe legend featuring a child named Running Flower, who braves the wintry weather to save her village. For grades 2-4.

**DBC11039** - When Lighthouses are Dark: A Story of Lake Superior Island by Ethel Claire Brill. A Winter story of children stranded on a Lake Superior Island who take refuge in an old lighthouse. For grades 4-7.

## Top 10 BARD Downloads in November

<b>DB115978</b>	Everyone Here is Lying	Shari Lapena
<b>DB109562</b>	Matchup	Lee Child
<b>DB116233</b>	Murder in the Courthouse	Nancy Grace
<b>DB112397</b>	Quantum	Patricia Cornwell
<b>DB116357</b>	The Coworker	Freida McFadden
<b>DB115401</b>	Flop Dead Gorgeous	David Rosenfelt
<b>DB115404</b>	Obsessed	James Patterson
<b>DB116365</b>	Payback in Death	J. D. Robb
<b>DB115963</b>	Blink of an Eye	Iris Johansen
<b>DB116127</b>	Out of Nowhere	Sandra Brown
<b>DB112393</b>	Ignite	Melanie Harlow

# Victoria E. Wolf Recording News

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We are wrapping up Sonny Longtine's "Michigan's Upper Peninsula: Life, Legends & Landmarks" and have begun to record "Valley Cats: The Adventures of Boonie and River," the first book in a Juvenile trilogy by local author Gretchen Preston.

We typically record Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 AM in the Victoria E. Wolf Recording Booth on the second floor of the Peter White Public Library. You are welcome to stop by and see the recording process in action. If you're planning to visit, call 906-228-7697 Ext. 0, or email [tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org](mailto:tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org) to confirm we are recording on the day you plan to visit.

Here is a list of the books recorded since we began in 2019:

<b>DBC16187</b> A Love Affair with the U.P.	Cully Gage D
<b>DBC19551</b> Northern Love Affair	Gage, Cully
<b>DBC19552</b> Laughing Whitefish	Traver, Robert
<b>DBC19553</b> Copper Empire	Donna S. Simons
<b>DBC19554</b> Wit and Wisdom	Cully Gage
<b>DBC19555</b> The Cinder Pond	Carroll Watson Rankin
<b>DBC19556</b> Dandelion Cottage	Carroll Watson Rankin
<b>DBC19557</b> Way Back When	Jerry Harju
<b>DBC19558</b> Danny and the Boys	Traver, Robert
<b>DBC19559</b> Michigan's U.P. (in progress)	Sonny Longtine

Do you have suggestions for local recording? If so, please call 906-228-7697 Ext. 0, or email [tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org](mailto:tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org).



# By the Numbers

The count of Great Lakes Talking Books patrons by county.

County	Patron Count
Alger	11
Alpena	33
Baraga	4
Chippewa	38
Crawford	10
Delta	56
Dickinson	40
Gogebic	18
Houghton	25
Iron	19
Keweenaw	6
Luce	5
Mackinac	8
Marquette	105
Menominee	39
Ontonagon	14
Schoolcraft	15

**446**

Patrons

**49**

Member organizations  
e.g., libraries, assisted  
living, schools, etc.

**84**

Patrons who download  
books using BARD

**5**

The number of printed  
braille books patrons  
may request each  
month from NLS Braille  
on Demand service.

**1821**

The year Louise Braille invented a system of embossed writing.

Great Lakes Talking Books  
1615 Presque Isle Avenue  
Marquette, MI 49855-2811

FREE  
MATTER  
FOR THE  
BLIND



Great Lakes Talking Books - A free braille and talking book library service for people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness, a reading disability, or a physical disability that prevents reading or holding the printed page.

Reader Advisor	Tonia Bickford
Email	tb@greatlakestalkingbooks.org
Phone	906-228-7697 or 800-562-8985, Ext. 0
Website	<a href="https://greatlakestalkingbooks.org">https://greatlakestalkingbooks.org</a>
Hours	Mon, Tues, and Thurs from 9 – 5