



Indiana Insights

Judy Gray, Editor

317-232-3684 / 1-800-622-4970

tbbl@library.in.gov

<http://www.in.gov/library/tbbl.htm>

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Have you heard about Twin Vision Books?

Did you know that the talking book library has a robust collection of twin vision braille books? The talking book library houses hundreds of twin vision braille books for you to enjoy, but what exactly are twin vision braille books?

In 1960 Jean Dyon Norris had the idea to create a way that blind children could read with their sighted parents or blind parents could read bedtime stories to their sighted children. Norris found a way to create books that contained print with pictures along with the same text in Braille.

"I heard this blind mother talking about her children," Norris recalled. "She said, 'My children just don't understand why I can't read books to them.'" She went home that night and dug out a copy of a book her son had loved as a child, "Fuzzy Wuzzy Puppy." Using a slate and stylus, the most labor intensive of

Braille transcribing methods, she created the first twin vision braille book (Colker, 1990).

Norris started creating twin vision braille books on her kitchen table and distributing them to friends that needed them. Her work grew into creating libraries that included twin vision books. Eventually, the National Federation of the Blind and the National Library Service followed her lead and started manufacturing these books.

All this history leads us to today and our collection. We have the old classic twin vision books as well as newly published books for kids and adults alike to enjoy together.

If you are interested in any of our twin vision books, give us a call at 800-622-4970.

Colker, D. (1990, March 29). *Once more, with feeling : Twin vision translates classic children's stories into Braille*. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1990-03-29-vw-268-story.html>

Favorite Twin Vision titles:

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|-----------|--|
| BR022617 | The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander |
| BR0227963 | The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes |
| BR022001 | Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty |
| BR012015 | The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle |
| BR022390 | We Don't Eat Our Classmates! By Ryan Higgins |
| BR025050 | Hot Dog by Doug Salati |
| BR016352 | Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak |

Do you need to contact the Indiana Talking Book & Braille Library.

If you have a message for the Indiana Talking Book & Braille Library, please do not write it on the mailing stickers of the blue cases. Once the cartridge is taken out of the case, we have no way of identifying which case it was returned in. Also, we have no way to tell if the note is old or not if it is written on the sticker.

There are three easy ways to reach the Indiana Talking Book & library.

- Call us at (800) 622-3684 or (317) 232-3684
- Email us at tbbl@library.in.gov
- If you want to add a note in your return cartridge, please make sure you have included your name on it.

Meet Jannell Summers

The Indiana Talking Book & Braille Library would like to introduce our newest Staff member Jannell Summers. Jannell has been hired to fill the Indiana Voices coordinator position. In this position she will work with our volunteer readers, monitors, and reviews to publish talking books set in Indiana, about Indiana or an Indiana resident or Indiana authors.

Jannell comes to us with years of experience working with sound, sound recording, and mixing. She will also be working part-time in the basement production center to help get the talking book cartridges out in a timely manner.

Jannell can be contacted about Indiana Voices at 317-232-3683 or jasummers@library.in.gov



Portrait of Jannell Summers

Indiana Voices Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed to work as at home talking book editors for Indiana Voices. The at home editor position listens to the book while reading a paper copy. The editor looks for added or missing word, mispronunciations, or any other thing that would decrease the quality of the recording.

This work is done at home in your own time, and everything is sent to you and returned by you in the United States mail. If interested Jannell can be contacted about Indiana Voices at 317-232-3683 or jasummers@library.in.gov

Statewide Writing Contest for Grades 4-12

Letters About Literature is a letter writing contest for Indiana students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author (living or deceased) about how the book affected how they see themselves or how they see the world. Indiana students in grades 4-12 are eligible to enter the Indiana Letters About Literature reading and writing contest.

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS!

Deadline - January 19, 2024

There are three competition levels:

- Level I: Grades 4-6
- Level II: Grades 7 & 8
- Level III: Grades 9-12

Prizes are awarded to the following winners in each level:

- First Place: \$100.00
- Second Place: \$50.00
- Third Place: \$25.00
- Indiana Author Letters (Awarded to the highest scored letter written to an Indiana Author): \$50.00
- Teacher Prize: \$150 (Awarded annually to a teacher who has gone the extra mile to support their students in entering our contest)

All Indiana winners will be announced in late March 2024 and will receive an invitation to the Virtual Awards Ceremony, as well as a prize pack (including free books!) mailed to their home. All Indiana winning letters are published in a booklet that is distributed free to the winning students. Our author for the Virtual Awards Ceremony will be Indiana Author, ROB HARRELL!

The 2023-24 Letters About Literature contest for young readers is made possible by the James and Madeleine McMullen Family Foundation and the Indiana State Library Foundation.

Contest Website: <https://www.in.gov/library/icb/lal/>

Winter Reading Program

The First annual talking book & braille library winter reading program is off to a great start. We had 72 patrons sign up to play Bingo with us.

Remember all Bingo cards are due back to Abby Chumin at the Indiana Talking Book & Braille library by February 12.

In mid-December a small mid program prizes will be sent out to all currently registered participants. Final bingo prizes will be sent out to all participants who have returned their bingo cards to Abby by February 12.

Books for the Winter Holidays:

Hanukkah – December 7 to December 15

Chanukah: capturing the light by Immanuel Bernstein (DBC27448) Adult non-fiction.

Drawing on a vast array of classic and contemporary sources, renowned teacher and bestselling author Rabbi Immanuel Bernstein presents a deep and profound understanding of Chanukah, inspiring the reader to allow its light to illuminate the eight days of the festival and the entire year.

Hanukkah in America a history by Dianne Ashton. (DB081412) Adult non-fiction.

Professor of religion examines regional variants of the ancient Jewish tradition. In New Orleans, Hanukkah means decorating a door with a menorah made of hominy grits; latkes in Texas are seasoned with cilantro and cayenne pepper; children in Cincinnati sing Hanukkah songs and eat oranges and ice cream.

Hanukkah Lights: Stories of the Season from NPR's Annual Holiday Special by National Public Radio. (DB062028) Adult Fiction.

Twelve stories celebrating Hanukkah by contemporary authors Myra Goldberg, Daniel Pinkwater, Harlan Ellison, Dani Shapiro, Elie Wiesel, Mark Helprin, and others.

Jeremy's dreidel by Ellie Gellman. (DB048390, BR012254) Juvenile Fiction.

Jeremy's art class at the Jewish center is making dreidels for Hanukkah. Each child can design one. Jeremy plans to use a special design for his father, who is blind. For grades 3-6 and older readers.

The Story of Hanukkah by Amy Ehrlich. (DB033242, BR008929) Juvenile non-fiction.

Retells the biblical story that is celebrated by Jewish people in the feast of Hanukkah. For grades K-3 and older readers.

The Trees of the Dancing Goats by Patricia Polacco. (DB053572) Juvenile fiction.

During a scarlet fever epidemic one winter in Michigan, a Jewish family helps make Christmas special for their sick neighbors by making their own Hanukkah miracle. For grades K-3.

Christmas – December 25

Christmas a candid history by Bruce David Forbes. (DBC01643) Adult non-fiction

The story of Christmas-from its pre-Christian roots, through the birth of Jesus, to the holiday's spread across Europe into the Americas and beyond, and its transformation through modern consumer culture.

Hercule Poirot's Christmas by Agatha Christie. (DB044355, LP019370)

Adult Fiction

As the holiday guest of Colonel Johnson, chief constable of his county, the little Belgian detective Poirot spends his Christmas investigating the brutal and baffling murder of rich, eccentric old Simeon Lee.

Holidays on Ice by David Sedaris. (BR015182, DB068134) Adult Fiction

Short Christmas tales by humorist, playwright, and National Public Radio commentator. Sedaris relives his stint as a department store elf in "SantaLand Diaries." In "Seasons Greetings to Our Friends and Family!!!," a housewife facing homicide charges updates loved ones in her annual holiday newsletter. Some strong language.

Holly, reindeer, and colored lights: the story of the Christmas symbols by Edna Barth. (BR013898, DB053940) Juvenile Non-fiction

Traces Christmas traditions and symbols back to Christian, mythological, and pagan sources. Covers the star, tree and its ornaments, the Yule log, Santa Claus, gift exchanging, food, and bells--all associated with this December holiday. For grades 4-7.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss. (DB047536, BR023192) Juvenile Fiction

The Grinch, whose heart is two sizes too small, tries to abolish Christmas by stealing all the presents from the people in the valley. For grades K-3.

Miracle on 34th Street by Valentine Davies (BR003956, DB012986) Adult Fiction.

Warmly humorous twentieth century Christmas story about an old man who says he is Santa Claus. The reindeer in the zoo eat out of his hand and the children who come to Macy's are convinced he is Santa. His sanity is questioned, and the case goes to court.

Royal Holiday by Jasmine Guillory. (BR022879, DB096768) Adult Fiction

When her daughter gets a job styling a member of the British royal family for the holidays, Vivian Forest jumps at the chance to travel with her. She is intrigued by Malcolm Hudson, a private secretary to the Queen, but Vivian is supposed to return home after Christmas. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex.

Skippping Christmas by John Grisham. (BR013636, DB052929, LP014135) Adult Fiction

Tax accountant Luther Krank calculates that a Caribbean cruise will cost less than what he and his wife, Nora, spent celebrating the holidays last year. Since daughter Blair is in the Peace Corps, they plan to skip Christmas. Luther, however, doesn't anticipate the town's reaction. Some strong language.

The Night before Christmas by Clement Moore. (BR004660, BR012029, DB097854) Juvenile Poetry

The popular Christmas poem that has been a favorite of American children and adults since the author wrote it for his own children in 1822. For readers of all ages.

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. (BR006467, BR012001, DB023625) Juvenile Fiction

On a dark Christmas Eve, a boy who believes in Santa Claus boards a mysterious train, the Polar Express. He and the other children, still in their nightclothes, drink hot chocolate and sing carols as the train races through snowy landscapes carrying them to a huge city at the North Pole to visit Santa Claus. For preschool-grade 2 and older readers. Caldecott Medal.

The truth about Santa Claus by T. Y. Crowell. (BR006457, DB024670) Juvenile Non-fiction

All about the history of Santa Claus beginning with the account of Saint Nicholas in 280 A.D. Investigates the legends surrounding Saint Nicholas and describes how the figure of the modern Santa Claus developed. For grades 4-7 and older readers.

Where did Christmas come from? By Al Remson. (BR010955, DB044006) Adult Non-fiction

Remson looks at various Christmas traditions such as trees, yule logs, hanging stockings, caroling, Christmas dinners, and gift giving, and explains how they began.

Kwanzaa – December 26 to January 1

Kwanzaa an African American celebration of culture and cooking by Eric Copage. (DB034528) Adult Non-fiction

Kwanzaa is a week-long African American celebration of the "first fruits." Included are selections from historical works, folklore, and biographies that illustrate the "Nguzo Saba" (seven principles of Kwanzaa,) interspersed with a host of recipes from the African diaspora.

Kwanzaa an African American holiday that is progressive & uplifting by Haki R. Madhubuti. (DB032621, BR008375) Adult & Young Adult Non-fiction

A guide to the meaning and observance of Kwanzaa, an African American celebration of the "first fruits." Originated in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa is celebrated annually from December 26 through January 1.

The People Remember by Ibi Aanu Zobi. (BRC01877, DB105456) Juvenile Non-fiction

The author recounts the journey of African descendants in America by connecting their history to the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Commercial audiobook. For grades K-3. 2021.

Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story by Angela Shelf Medearis. (BR013078) Juvenile Fiction

Tale about seven argumentative Ashanti brothers, who are given the seemingly impossible task of turning spools of silk thread into gold. They join to solve the problem, thus exhibiting the spirit of Kwanzaa. Includes information on this cultural holiday and instructions for weaving a Kente belt.

Something to Celebrate by Mason, Jackson & Walker. (DB057518) Adult Fiction

Three stories of holiday romance by African American authors. As the New Year approaches in Monica Jackson's "Truly Everlasting," Trask and Felicia discover they are meant for each other. Others find love in "The First Noel" by Felicia Mason and Margie Walker's "Kwanzaa Kupendi." Some explicit descriptions of sex.

Willimena rules 9 steps to the best, worst, greatest holiday ever! By Valerie Wilson Wesley. (DBC04842) Juvenile Fiction

Christmas and Kwanzaa are right around the corner and Willimena is usually excited about her favorite time of the year. But this year, no one feels much like celebrating because Aunt Laura lost her job. Willie's cousin Teddy--who is usually nice and friendly--is sad, mad, and downright rude. Can Willie find a way to bring 'happy' back to the holidays?

Winter Nights by Francis Ray (DB052196) Adult Fiction

Three holiday romances featuring African Americans. "Until Christmas" Samantha becomes a housekeeper for Principal Rawlings and his twins. "Kwanzaa Angel" finds Erin being reintroduced to an old high school crush. "Round Midnight" radio talk-show host Summer falls in love with her director. Some descriptions of sex.

Indiana Insights is a publication of the Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library, Indiana State Library. **Indiana Insights** is also available online, in Braille, or on a digital cartridge upon request. Any mention of products and services in the **Indiana Insights** newsletter is for information purposes only and does not imply endorsement. This project is funded in part with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services which administers the Library Services Technology act.

Indiana Talking Book
and Braille Library
140 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Free Matter
for the Blind

Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library Calendar:

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| Monday | December 25, 2023 | Library Closed |
| Tuesday | December 26, 2023 | Library Closed |
| Monday | January 1, 2024 | Library Closed |
| Monday | January 15, 2024 | Library Closed |

Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Join The Indiana Talking Book and Braille Library on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/IndianaTBBL>