

"Salutations!" Says Wolfner Director Janet Caruthers



Winter and spring leave us behind, and the heat of summer starts to arrive. My favorite spring flowers fade away to be replaced with summer fruits and veggies, and critters come out for their summer adventures. Each creature I pass outside reminds me of the beloved stories Charlotte and Wilbur, Stuart Little, Mr. Toad and more. These characters have humble beginnings and grand adventures. They have always kept me searching for animals

around me, a summer adventure of my own, to help them on their journeys.

Each spring and summer, I especially come across turtles on my way to and from work. I share those glimpses with others, and staff have begun to keep count of each turtle. For anyone curious, the current tally is six. Now, we all share our turtle sightings along with other creatures we come across. I've heard of a frog floating around a pool like a lazy river, foxes and her kits resting under a neighbor's porch, and solitary herons gliding over lakes and rivers. The other day, I spotted nibbles taken out of my strawberries and wondered if perhaps a turtle stopped by for a quick bite before moving to bask on a sunny log.

So, let's take some notes from nature's many stories: savor the little joys of summertime and help our neighbors no matter how great or small. So, trade stories around a campfire with some s'mores, listen to the cicadas chirping in the trees, help a turtle safely cross the road, and enjoy a good book outside in the warm summer breeze.

Janet

2025 Wolfner Summer Survey

Every two years, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library conducts a Patron Satisfaction Survey. The Library strives to exceed patron expectations and the gathered information is vital to successfully serve you.

You can complete the survey online at
<https://bit.ly/wolfner-survey2025>.

A link to the survey can also be found on our website at
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner>.

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Patrons can also complete it by calling in your answers or requesting a paper copy be sent to you that you can return by mail. For more information about the 2025 Patron Satisfaction Survey, you can reach us on our toll-free in-state phone number at 800-392-2614 or 573-751-8720.

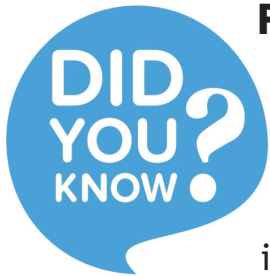
Thank you for your participation. We look forward to your response!

Accessible StoryWalks®

The Missouri State Library has collaborated with Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library to create Accessible StoryWalk® kits that can be checked out by public libraries across Missouri. These kits combine an outdoor activity with literacy. Young and old alike can walk along a pre-planned trail and read a children's book. The pages of the book are enlarged, Braille enhanced and posted at regular intervals.

Wolfner advertises available StoryWalk® activities and current locations on our Facebook page, <https://facebook.com/wolfnerlibrary>. Contact your local library if you are interested in engaging in one of these delightful stories as an activity to enjoy.

For more information, please contact us at 800-392-2614 or 573-751-8720 or email wolfner@sos.mo.gov.



Resources Available Via Wolfner Podcast

Wolfner Library offers entertaining and informative podcasts on our website. For instance, did you know Wolfner's online catalog, WolfPAC, provides access to Talking Book Topics? These podcasts, along with reader advisors, provide a way for patrons to access instructions and help with many different services like the online catalog. Have you thought about using BARD, our Braille and Audio Reading Download service? A "How to Use BARD" feature is also available in our podcast selections.

Don't forget that reader advisors are here to help you no matter what you need. You can find our podcasts at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/WolfnerPodcast> or call a reader advisor for more information.

2025 Summer Reading Programs

Join Wolfner Youth Services on a reading journey, June 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 that celebrates creativity! The 2025 theme, “Color Our World” encourages all of us to enjoy the ways in which art transforms, uplifts and connects us to each other.

Youth patrons can register for one of the following challenges:



Kid’s Book Nook Challenge – 10 minutes a day

Patrons between the developmental ages of 0 – 6 can log 50 minutes of reading or being read to for entry into our grand prize drawings.

Youth Enlighten Your World Challenge – 20 minutes a day

Patrons between the developmental ages of 7 – 18 can log 100 minutes of reading or being read to for entry into our grand prize drawings. All registered participants will receive summer art kits. Prizes will be funded by the Friends of the Wolfner Library.

Students are also invited to join the following LIVE NLS Zoom Events (registration is required):

Mac Barnett Kick Off Event, *hosted by NLS*

Monday, June 16, 12 – 1 p.m. central time

Join author Mac Barnett for this live Summer Reading Program kickoff event with a reading of his book “*Extra Yarn* (DB127239),” available from NLS in audio. This year’s theme is “Color Our World”—and in addition to this amazing storyteller, we will have more information on how you can join us all summer long.

Storyteller Donna Washington, *hosted by NLS*

Thursday, June 26, 3 – 4 p.m. central time

This one’s for the kids—or kids at heart. Donna Washington will lead an inclusive storytelling hour for children, engaging with participants in a fun and accessible way. Kids will find fun and inspiration in this hour of creativity and be encouraged to color their world with summer reading.

Registration links are available at:

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/services-and-resources/summer-reading/>

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If you need assistance with registration or logging your child's reading contact Vanessa Lengyel, Youth Services Specialist 800-392-2614 or 573-751-8720 or email vanessa.lengyel@sos.mo.gov.

Adult Summer Reading Challenge



The Adult Summer Reading theme for this year is "Color our World". Registration is open and we will be using our online platform, Beanstack, to track reading progress. Participants will need to read five books between June 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025 to complete the program.

Prizes will be funded by the Friends of the Wolfner Library.

Adult programming for the summer includes:

Master Gardener Roger Erpelding, hosted by NLS

Monday, June 23, 3 – 4 p.m. central time

Summer is a great time to get your garden growing. Master Gardener Roger Erpelding is here to help you do just that! Roger is a patron of the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and will provide tips and tricks for sighted and blind gardeners alike. This session will have time for questions, and we'll have a list of Roger's favorite gardening books from the NLS collection.

Mary McGreevy creator of *Tips from Dead People*, hosted by Wolfner Library

Monday, July 14, 3 – 4 p.m. central time

Join our Wolfner Zoom event to meet the creator of the viral social media account *Tips from Dead People*, where Mary shares unique obituaries and the wisdom we can all take from them. *Tips from Dead People* was born from a simple but ironic question: what life advice can be gathered from the dead? Mining lifehacks from poignant, irreverent, hilarious, brutally honest, and achingly bittersweet obituaries will inspire and remind you of what really matters. And it may just motivate you to start thinking about what you want your own obituary to say. Mary has a master's in Public Policy and Public Administration; her career includes being a social worker, a video producer/director, and a startup entrepreneur. Join us to learn about crafting—your final message to the world.

Join by Zoom on any smart device or by phone, information for this event will be emailed to the Wolfner listserv. To make sure you have the link please email Jami Livingston, jami.livingston@sos.mo.gov.

Master Chef Christine Ha, hosted by NLS

Monday, July 14, 6 – 7 p.m. central time

When Christine Ha won the third season of MasterChef, she was the first blind contestant on the show! Join us for a night of conversation about cooking, reading, and everything in between. Christine will tell us her story and maybe even share a recipe or two. Check out her books *“Recipes from My Home Kitchen: Asian and American Comfort Food from the Winner of MasterChef Season 3 (DB076676)”* in audio and *“Recipes from My Home (BR020085)”* in braille.

Musician Jono Manson, hosted by NLS

Thursday, July 24, 6 – 7 p.m. central time

Color your world with music! Jono Manson has been playing his brand of music for decades, collaborating and touring with some of the biggest names in the business. Join us for a lighthearted interview that captures some of Jono’s stories and memories, as well as what he’s got planned for his next project.

Registration is required for NLS events, you can access these unique links on the NLS Summer Reading Program site:

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/services-and-resources/summer-reading/>

For more information or to sign up please contact Jami Livingston, Adult Services Librarian, by email jami.livingston@sos.mo.gov or phone at 800-392-2614.



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

2025 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 June, July and August, followed by instructions on how to join in:

June 26 — ***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams. **(DB035730)**

A fable about a band of rabbits who set out bravely for a new home in the English countryside. They encounter many dangers and adventures along the way, and finally make it to safety after rescuing some does who become their mates.

[15 hours, 38 minutes]

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July 3 — ***The Women*** by Kristin Hannah. **(DB118896)**

In 1965, nursing student Frankie McGrath, after hearing the words "Women can be heroes, too," impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows her brother to Vietnam where she is overwhelmed by the destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America. [15 hours]

July 10 — ***Slay*** by Brittney Morris. **(DB099185)**

An honors student at Jefferson Academy, seventeen-year-old Keira enjoys developing and playing Slay, a secret, multiplayer online role-playing game celebrating black culture, until the two worlds collide. [8 hours, 29 minutes]

July 17 — ***The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family*** by Ron and Clint Howard. **(DB105473)**

By turns confessional, nostalgic, heartwarming and harrowing, the award-winning filmmaker and his brother, an audience-favorite actor, share their unusual family story of navigating and surviving life as sibling child actors. [13 hours, 21 minutes]

July 24 — ***The Reaper: Autobiography of One of the Deadliest Special Ops Snipers*** by Nicholas Irving. **(DB081337)**

A memoir by a Special Operations Direct Action Sniper traces his extraordinary career during the War on Terror, which was marked by his record-setting deployment to Afghanistan and his face-off against an enemy sniper known only as The Chechnian. [7 hours, 4 minutes]

July 31 — ***Spamalot Diaries*** by Eric Idle. **(DB127020)**

In March 2005, Spamalot debuted on Broadway to rapturous reviews ... in *Spamalot Diaries*, Eric Idle shares original journal entries and raw email exchanges—all featuring his whip-smart wit—that reveal the sometimes bumpy, always entertaining path to the show's unforgettable run. [4 hours, 30 minutes]

August 7 — ***Assistant to the Villain*** by Hannah Nicole Maehrer. **(DB117271)**

With ailing family to support, Evie Sage's employment status isn't just important, it's vital. So when a mishap with Rennedawn's most infamous Villain results in a job offer—naturally, she says yes ... But just when she's getting used to severed heads suspended from the ceiling and the odd squish of an errant eyeball beneath her heel, Evie suspects this dungeon has a huge rat ... and not just the literal kind. [13 hours, 58 minutes]

August 14 — ***Secret History of Sharks*** by John A. Long. **(DB122557)**

A world-leading paleontologist on the cutting edge of shark research for decades showcases the global search to discover sharks' secret history, from ancient megalodons to fearsome Great Whites, as he and dozens of other extraordinary scientists embark on digs to all seven continents where they find clues to sharks' singular story. [14 hours, 32 minutes]

August 21 — ***We Solve Murders*** by Richard Osman. **(DB124180)**

Investigator Steve Wheeler comes out of retirement when his daughter-in-law, Amy, needs help finding out who left a dead body on a remote island with a huge bag of money. [10 hours, 35 minutes]

August 21 — ***Teacher Man*** by Frank McCourt. **(DB061267)**

The author describes his coming of age as a teacher, storyteller, and writer, a personal journey during which he spent fifteen years finding his voice in the classroom, and came to terms with the undervalued importance of teaching. [8 hours, 46 minutes]

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

Join by Zoom on any smart device: 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

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

Kind Thoughts from Wolfner Friends

“We appreciate the generosity, thoughtfulness, and consistent blessing of Wolfner Library to our family. Thank you for all you do...”

- Patron’s family, Elkland, Mo.

“Earlier this year you helped me get BARD Mobile set up for one of my students. It has been life changing for him as he has listened to so many books this year! He listens to books for hours in his own time, and his love for reading has grown a ton!”

- Educator, St. Charles, Mo.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

“Wolfner Library, thank you for attending the Alphapointe Wellness Fair. We greatly appreciate your continued support and partnership.”

– Alphapointe, Kansas City, Mo.

“Wolfner is a top three joy of life... Nothing is better than curling up in bed and listening to a good book.”

– Patron, St. Louis, 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.)

Youth

Bebop Express by H. L. Panahi. **(DBC31030)**

Narrated by Audie Cline.

A rollicking rhythmic express train takes passengers on a jazzy journey that celebrates the United States and its unique musical culture. For grades K–3. [8 minutes]

Fake ID by Walter Sorrells. **(DBC16295)**

Narrated by Mary Beth Broughton.

After a lifetime of moving and assuming new identities, sixteen-year-old Chass begins to piece together the disturbing past that haunts her and her mother and which involves a mysterious tape, a deceased popular singer, and the secrets of several people in a small Alabama town. Some violence. For junior and senior high readers. [6 hours, 29 minutes]

Poetry for Young People: Maya Angelou by Edwin Graves Wilson and Maya Angelou. **(DBC30983)**

Narrated by Maggie Barnes.

Dr. Maya Angelou is a true American icon. Twenty-five of her finest poems capture

a range of emotions and experiences, from the playful "Harlem Hopscotch" to the prideful "Me and My Work" to the soul-stirring "Still I Rise." For grades 3–6.

[1 hour, 9 minutes]

Proud Mouse by Cara Mentzel and Idina Menzel. **(DBC30996)**

Narrated by Loretta Broker.

Cara Lee is a proud mouse. She is proud of her big sister Dee. She is proud of her specially decorated journal. And now she's proud to become what she's always wanted to be: a student. But her first day of school is different than she imagined. Everyone keeps comparing her to Dee. But who is Cara Lee? When you have a big sister with such a LOUD talent, how can you find room to shine in your own way?

For preschool – grade 2. [14 minutes]

Adult

African Americans in Mid-Missouri: From Pioneers to Ragtimers

by Rose M. Nolen. **(DBC29166)**

Narrated by Mary Schantz.

Brought to Mid-Missouri to serve as slaves but rising up to proudly serve the community as leaders, African Americans have made an indelible contribution to the region. Join historian Rose M. Nolen for the story of some of the most remarkable characters and institutions to come out of Columbia and Sedalia.

[3 hours, 24 minutes]

Boxcar Willie: My Life Story by Boxcar Willie. **(DBC30916)**

Narrated by Dale Eickhoff.

Autobiography of country singer Box Car Willie, AKA Lecil T. Martin. [7 hours, 3 minutes]

Broadcasting the Ozarks: Si Siman and Country Music at the Crossroads

by Kathryn Ledbetter and Scott Foster Siman. **(DBC30914)**

Narrated by Lesley LePage.

Broadcasting the Ozarks explores the vibrant country music scene that emerged in Springfield, Missouri, in the 1930s and thrived for half a century.

[8 hours, 53 minutes]

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Face Value by Michael A. Kahn. (DBC30951)

Narrated by Marilyn Smith.

St. Louis attorney Rachel Gold works to solve the death of medical examiner Sari Bashir, which is ruled a suicide, but Rachel doesn't believe the official story. Some strong language. Some violence. [6 hours, 8 minutes]

Wolfner Studios Volunteer Appreciation

A luncheon to recognize Wolfner's wonderful volunteers was held on Friday, May 16. The accomplishments over the previous year were reflected upon, and some exciting new ventures that the future holds with the studio were announced. This event was made possible due to the generosity of the Friends of Wolfner Library and it allowed



us to show our volunteers some of the appreciation they deserve. Our volunteers play an integral role in the success of Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library. If you would like to help us acknowledge our volunteers, feel free to send a thank you note or just let us know about a Wolfner volunteer-produced book or Wolfner narrator you have enjoyed

Wolfner Facebook

Stay connected with all the latest news, events and resources provided by Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library by following us on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/wolfnerlibrary>.

NFB-Newsline®



You can now access NFB-NEWSLINE® publications on any Amazon Alexa product, including Echo and Echo Dot, with your voice by saying, "Alexa, open National Federation."

To log in to Newsline say, "Alexa, ask National Federation to log in." State log in, and then provide your subscriber identification number and your security code. To review instructions for this skill say, "Alexa ask National Federation to give me instructions."

Over 500 publications are available to subscribers through their NFB-NEWSLINE® App, via your phone or on Alexa enabled devices. To register for this service, contact a reader advisor at 573-751-8720 or 800-392-2614.

For more information on using your smart speaker visit <https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-newsline/alexa-instructions> or email nfb@nfb.org.



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), offered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress.

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.

NLS Patron Announce Service

The Patron Engagement Section at NLS is now offering a regular email listserv service with timely information about programs, services and products. If you'd like to get the latest news and updates straight in your inbox, a few times a week, you can send your name and email address to NLSPES@loc.gov. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Upcoming Holidays

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

- Thursday, June 19 Juneteenth
- Friday, July 4 Independence Day
- Monday, September 1 Labor Day

Wolfner Library Donations

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

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library
PO Box 387
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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

Janet Caruthers, State Librarian

Public Services Team

Lori Brown, Director of Public Services
Jami Livingston, Adult Services Librarian
Vanessa Lengyel, Youth Services Specialist
Meghan McCormack, Reader Advisor
Kenna Tervo, Reader Advisor
Jon Wilcox, 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