

Wolfner NEWS

Denny Hoskins, CPA Secretary of State

Winter 2026

Greetings from Wolfner Director Janet Caruthers



Welcome Winter

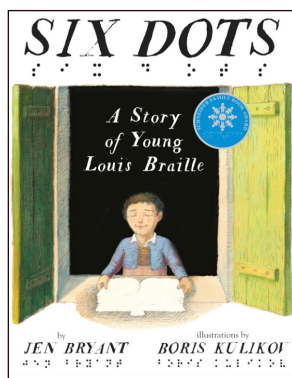
With winter in full swing, staying indoors with a cup of hot chocolate and watching the snow fall becomes one of my treasured moments. When you're outdoors on a walk, bringing in groceries from the car, or shoveling the driveway or sidewalk, take a moment to pause and enjoy how the world quiets with a fresh blanket of snow. Find the peace in a world slowed by weather.

These wintery days create a perfect opportunity for our Adult Mail and Make patrons to hang their pinecone birdfeeders. We hope you enjoy caring for the creatures that visit your yard!

I enjoy finding in the snow bird footprints surrounding bird feeders or animal tracks leading home to their cozy dens. Though the start of the new year is cold, cloudy, and full of inclement weather, take time to appreciate this season's beauty and unique offerings. And I hope you are able to be with your loved ones to share your latest reads, winter observations and stories, and new year reflections.

This past year, I hope you have enjoyed the Recording Studio's seasonal and new productions as well as Wolfner's large print and Braille books. I extend sincere gratitude to all our volunteers and Wolfner staff for their contributions to help ensure *That All May Read*.

Wishing you well in the new year,
Janet



January is Braille Literacy Month

This month, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library celebrates the independence and opportunities that Braille literacy provides to individuals who are blind or have low vision. Braille is a pathway to reading, writing, education, and interacting with the world around us. If you would like to learn more about the history of Braille, Wolfner has many books in our collection available for loan:

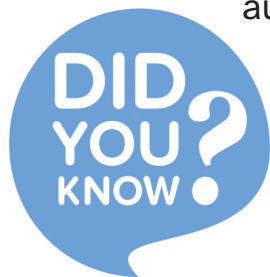
Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

- ***Triumph Over Darkness: The Life of Louis Braille***
by Lennard Bickel (BR017820, DB068015)
- ***The Reading Fingers: Life of Louis Braille, 1809–1852***
by Jean Roblin (BR014555)
- ***The World Under My Fingers: Personal Reflections on Braille***
by Barbara Pierce (BR010436)
- ***Louis Braille: Inventor***
by Jennifer Bryant (BR011716, DB046863 – For Grades 5–8)
- ***Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille***
by Jennifer Bryant (LP003607, BR021722, DB086519 – For Grades K–3)

If you are interested in learning Braille, we would recommend visiting <https://hadleyhelps.org/>. Wherever you are on your reading journey, join us this month as we honor those who have come before us, paving a wider path toward literacy one dot at a time.

Receiving Book Series In Order

If you have received a book out of series order, you can call a reader advisor at Wolfner to request the series in its publication order. Many times, when patrons have preferred authors saved to their Wolfner profiles, the latest book from their favorite author will automatically be added to their book list. This is a fantastic system when standalone titles are added to our collection, but it can be tricky to catch when new series books are added.



If you have received the latest book in a series but haven't read the previous books, please let us know by calling or emailing. Our staff would be glad to create a series cartridge for you or intersperse that series, in order, to your book list.

For reader advisor services, contact [Wolfner Library](#) at 573-751-8720 or 800-392-2614, by email at wolfner@sos.mo.gov.

2026 Large Print and Braille Calendars

Wolfner Library has received a limited number of 2026 large print wall calendars from Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. If you would like a large print wall calendar and have not already received one from RSB, please contact a reader advisor.

National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled offers patrons braille and print/braille calendars. The larger wall calendar is print/braille and highlights major holidays; the smaller pocket calendar is braille only and does not include holidays.

To order, please contact [Wolfner Library](#) at 573-751-8720 or 800-392-2614.

A New Year, A New Book



Start the new year with new books. Please return all of the books you have read or are not going to read to the library. Whether you have physical braille, large print books, or audio cartridges, we need them returned so they can circulate to other patrons. If you need help picking out new titles for the new year, call a reader advisor. They can help even the most finicky reader find books to enjoy.

Call a Reader Advisor



Would you like to read a series of books in order? Change your reading preferences or the number of books you receive? How about picking your next new read? Reader advisors are professional book advisors and love to talk to patrons about books. They can find the perfect book for you, send you a series in order, suggest books tailored to your specific interests, and update your preferences. Contact [Wolfner Library](#), Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Call

573-751-8720 or 800-392-2614 so we can serve you better.

Adult Winter Reading BINGO Begins January 1st

We want to invite you to get comfy and cozy this coming winter by joining us for a round of Library Bingo! Everyone participating will be given a card with different ideas for choosing books. Pick one idea from each column, so that you have a B, I, N, G, O. No straight lines or patterns needed—this isn't "regular" Bingo. BINGO categories on each card are as follows:

B: banned book, book recommended, unreliable narrator or main character, book with a dragon, western.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

I: romance, autobiography or biography, science fiction, mystery, book with a talking animal.

N: fantasy, science fiction, read free, Wolfner produced audiobook, book in a series.

G: short book under six hours, childhood favorite, nonfiction title, historical fiction, book set outside of USA.

O: cozy mystery, book with a ghost, book that someone recommends, book that was made into a movie or television series, long book over 12 hours.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library Adult Winter Reading Program 2026				
B	I	N	G	O
Banned Book	Romance	Fantasy	Short book under six hours	Cozy mystery
Book recommended	Autobiography or Biography	Science Fiction	Childhood Favorite	Book with a ghost
Unreliable narrator or main character	Science Fiction	FREE READ READY FREELY	Non-fiction title	Book that someone recommends
Book with a dragon	Mystery	Wolfner produced audiobook	Historical fiction	Book that was made into a movie or tv series
Western	Book with a talking animal	Book in a series	Book set outside of USA	Long book over 12 hours
Please call Wolfner Reader advisors for assistance with book selections				

A reader advisor can help you find whatever you are looking for. Be sure to let the reader advisor know that these are your Winter Bingo picks, so that we know to group them onto a single cartridge for you. As always, anyone who wants to read above and beyond the five-book minimum is encouraged to do so.

December 1

January 1 – February 28

March 10

Registration opens

Reading challenge begins

Last day to log minutes

All books must be logged by March 10 to receive a completion prize and be included in the grand prize drawing.

Large print BINGO cards are available on the Wolfner website, [Adult Winter Reading Program](#), if you want to print your own copy. If you would like either a [large print](#) or a physical braille BINGO card mailed to you, contact Wolfner Library.

Please plan ahead and start making your book requests in December, as the holiday rush is always a challenging time for the U.S. Postal Service.

Register for this program with Beanstack at <https://wolfpac.beanstack.org/> or by contacting the library at wolfner@sos.mo.gov, 573-751-8720 or 800-392-2614.

This program is supported by the Friends of Wolfner Library.



Missouri Secretary of State Wolfner Library Book Club

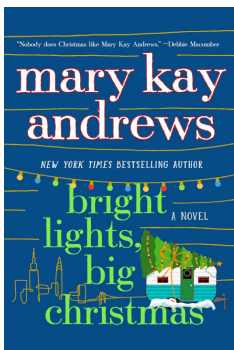
2026 Upcoming Book Club Titles

If you are a Wolfner patron, participate in our book club by dialing in on the first and third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m., or by using Zoom from a smart device.

Here's a list of books that will be featured for January and February, followed by instructions on how to join in:

December 4 — ***Hark the Herald Angels Scream*** by various authors. **(DB128539)**

Eighteen stories of Christmas horror from bestselling, acclaimed authors, including Scott Smith, Seanan McGuire, Josh Malerman, Michael Koryta and Sarah Pinborough. That there is darkness at the heart of the Yuletide season should not surprise.



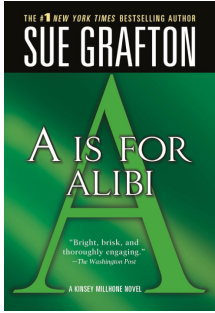
December 18 — ***Bright Lights, Big Christmas*** by Mary Kay Andrews. **(DB116380)**

When fall rolls around, it's time for Kerry Tolliver to leave her family's Christmas tree farm in the mountains of North Carolina for the wilds of New York City to help her gruff older brother & his dog, Queenie, sell the trees at the family stand on a corner in Greenwich Village.

January 8 — ***Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*** by Gregory Maguire. **(DB055810)**

Traces the life of the witch Elphaba from the Wizard of Oz (DB024449), both before and after Dorothy arrives. After attending a university with her roommate Glinda, Elphaba learns that a despotic Wizard is threatening animal rights in Oz.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

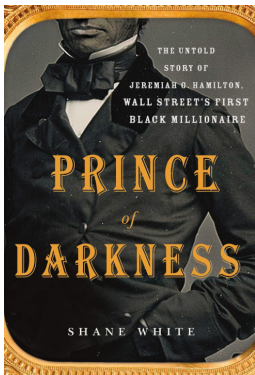


January 22 — ***A is for Alibi*** by Sue Grafton. **(DB035069)**

When prominent divorce attorney Laurence Fife was murdered in the picturesque Southern California town of Santa Teresa, his young and beautiful wife was convicted and sent to prison. Eight years later, out on parole, Nikki Fife hires attractive private eye Kinsey Millhone to find out who really killed her late husband.

February 5 — ***Catch Me If You Can: The Amazing True Story of the Youngest and Most Daring Con Man in the History of Fun and Profit*** by Frank W. Abagnale Jr. **(DB055517)**

Lighthearted autobiography of a high-school dropout from the Bronx who became a master counterfeiter and a millionaire by the age of twenty-one. Describes his successful impersonations throughout the 1960s of an airline pilot, a doctor, a lawyer, and a college professor, before being apprehended.



February 19 — ***Prince of Darkness: The Untold Story of Jeremiah G. Hamilton, Wall Street's First Black Millionaire*** by Shane White. **(DB089174)**

Biography of Jeremiah Hamilton, who is known as the first black millionaire. Discusses what little is known about his early life, his start in business by smuggling counterfeit coins to Haiti, his exploitation of financial chaos, instances of litigiousness, coverage of him in newspapers of the day, and more.

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

“As usual, you hit the mark this time! I got it [an audiobook cartridge] yesterday morning, and I finished it before I went to bed last night! Nothing like a good Lee Child book to make an exciting day! Thank you so much!

- Anne, Kirksville

“...when my mother died suddenly last summer, I had to bring back the materials she had checked out from Wolfner. I had never been there and had no idea how it worked. The folks in the library were wonderful- very kind and understanding, taking the materials from me and telling me not to worry about anything...I've always felt I should tell someone how much their attitude meant to me at that time.”

- Jenn

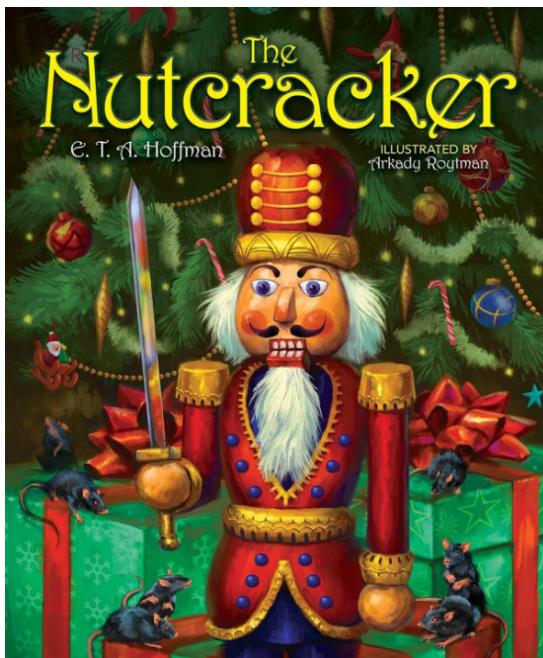
“I wanted to share (with patron's permission!) my conversation with Brenda... I called today to see how she was liking the service and she is THRILLED. She has already gone through one cassette and is starting on another. She told me she is telling everyone she meets to come by the Library and talk to us about Wolfner.”

- Kessie, Librarian, Fredericktown/Ironton

“I just finished the Wolfner recording of “Brannigan’s Land” narrated by Rick Wallis, and you all did a heck of a job. I don’t know what I’d do without access to these audiobooks.”

- Benny, Oklahoma

Wolfner Library Recording Studios



Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library presents *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King*

Throughout 2025, Wolfner volunteers and staff with the recording studio program have been working on a special production of *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (DBC30966) by E. T. A. Hoffmann. This audio production is a multi-narrator collaboration enhanced with sound effects and music. Our recording studio team has put together a wonderful production and we hope you enjoy it this holiday season!

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Visit the Missouri Secretary of State's website at www.sos.mo.gov/wolfner to hear a sample of the narration along with a few other holiday recordings from the Wolfner Library recording studios, which includes a sample of *A Christmas Carol* **(DBC30907)** by Charles Dickens, another enhanced audio recording produced by the recording studio team.

Both of these productions are available for patrons to download from BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download offered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress) or call a reader advisor at 800-392-2614 or 573-751-8720 to have it included on your next cartridge.

Happy Holidays from Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library!

Holiday Reading from Wolfner Library



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.)

Once again, the holiday season is upon us, and the staff at Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library thought you may enjoy these recordings produced by our recording studio team and volunteers...

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (DBC30907)

Christmas Day in the Morning by Pearl S. Buck (DBC29144)

Mortimer's Christmas Manger by Karma Wilson (DBC29198)

My Penguin Osbert by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel (DBC29208)

The Nutcracker and the Mouse-King by E. T. A. Hoffmann (DBC30966)

[Visit Wolfner's homepage to listen to samples!](#)

These recordings are available for download from BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download offered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress) or call a reader advisor at 800-392-2614 or 573-751-8720 to order them on your next cartridge.

The following titles are also available:

Youth

The Blizzard by Betty Ren Wright (DBC29123)

The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey by Susan Wojciechowski (DBC29147)

The Donkey's Christmas Song by Nancy Tafuri (DBC24505)

A Mustache Baby Christmas by Bridget Heos (DBC19425)

Snow Day! by Lester L. Laminack (DBC24490)

'Twas the Night Before Christmas in Missouri by Jo Parry (DBC31101)

Adult

An Amish Christmas Star by Shelley Shepard Gray, Charlotte Hubbard and Rosalind Lauer (DBC24482)

The Autobiography of Santa Claus by Jeff Guinn (DBC24497)

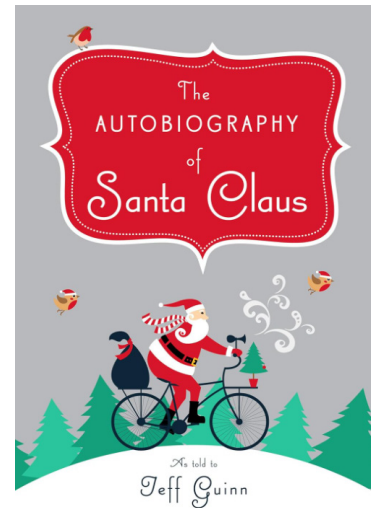
Christmas Comes to Morning Star
by Charlotte Hubbard (DBC29216)

The Great Santa Search by Jeff Guinn (DBC24499)

How Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas
by Jeff Guinn (DBC24498)

Time for Me to Come Home
by Dorothy Shackelford (DBC24500)

A Victorian Christmas by Catherine Palmer (DBC24380)



Happy Holidays from Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library!

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>.



NLS Programs Accessible by Phone or Zoom



Monthly *The 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://www.loc.gov/nls/many-faces-of-BARD/> or call a Wolfner Reader Advisor at 800-392-2614.

Alexa My Talking Books Skill Resumes

The NLS Alexa My Talking Books skill is available for service. For patrons who had existing My Talking Books accounts prior to October 2025, your profiles are active. Patrons who are not using the NLS Alexa skill called My Talking Books, can begin using the skill by filling out the registration form found at the following web address: www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta.

Patrons under the age of 18 will need to have a parent or guardian fill out the Parental Acknowledgement form at the following web address: www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-parental-acknowledgment.

Talking Book Topics in Audio

Available issues of Talking Book Topics can be found in the Wolfner online catalog by navigating from our home page catalog link to [Browse / Talking Book Topics](#), or you can visit the home page of National Library Service for the Blind and navigate to [New Materials / Talking Book Topics](#).

The New Digital Advanced Player 2

The new Digital Advanced Player 2 (DA2) offers capabilities similar to the old player, with the added benefit of built-in access to Wi-Fi and Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD). This feature allows users to search for, download, and listen to talking book materials from a single device. It has Bluetooth functionality, allowing users to connect to wireless headphones.



To receive the player, you must have wireless internet and have an active BARD account. If you are a current BARD user and would like to try the new DA2, or if you do not have a BARD account and would like to get started with the download service, a reader advisor can help.

National Federation of the Blind of Missouri



The National Federation of the Blind of Missouri (NFB of Missouri) is committed to empowering individuals who are blind or have low vision to live the lives they want. NFB offers a wide range of programs and resources designed to support individuals of all ages—children, adults, seniors and families—throughout Missouri.

Initiatives include:

- Youth Programs and Mentorship
- Adult and Career Services
- Technology and Accessibility Training
- Support for Seniors Losing Vision
- Community and Advocacy Education

If you would like to learn more about National Federation of the Blind of Missouri, you can visit them at www.nfbmo.org.

Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Upcoming Holidays

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

- Thursday, January 1 New Year's Day
- Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- Thursday, February 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Monday, February 16 Washington's Birthday

Wolfner Library Donations

If you are interested in donating to Wolfner Library, there are two options:

1) Help offset operating expenses through the Wolfner Trust Fund:

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

2) Help provide patron programming through Friends of Wolfner Library:

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 Library and our patrons appreciate your support!

Wolfner Staff Listing

Director

Janet Caruthers, State Librarian

Public Services Team

Lori Brown, Public Services Director
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, Circulation Director
Stacy Jo Butler, Senior Library Tech
Germone Williams, Library Tech
Emma Deuschle, Library Tech
Justin Stauffer, Library Tech

Production Team

Brandon Lammers, Volunteer and
Recording Studio Manager
Chris Cowan, Senior Library Tech
Tim Emmel, Library Tech
Germone Williams, Library Tech