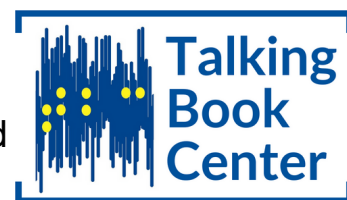


Safety First!

Here are some safety tips to stay cool during the extreme heat:

- Keep your house as cool as possible by keeping shades closed during the hottest part of the day
- Make sure you are drinking plenty of cool water throughout the day, but avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol
- Eat light, cold meals like chicken or pasta salads instead of heavy, hot dishes



The Staunton Police Department provides a free call-in service for seniors who live alone or have limited family in the area. If you register, you will be required to check in every morning via telephone, to make sure you are doing well. If they don't hear from you by a certain time, they will conduct a wellness check. For more information or to register for the program, give them a call at 540-332-3857.

Some local Fire Departments provide a smoke alarm installation program, for free. For more information contact the Fire Department:

Staunton: 540-332-3884

Waynesboro: 540-942-6730

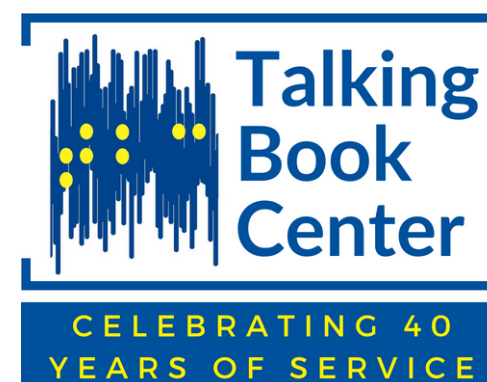
Augusta County: 540-245-5624



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401

Free Matter for the Blind
and Print Disabled

That All May Read!



July 2026

Talking Book Center : Staunton, Virginia

1 Churchville Avenue

Staunton, VA 24401

540-885-6215

talkingbooks@ci.staunton.va.us

Summer Reading: Unearth A Story: Events For July:

Program links and schedule can be found at www.loc.gov/nls

July 14: Blind authors Leona Godin and Georgina Kleege explore nonfiction as excavation in conversation with the Director of the Braille & Talking Book Library.

DB104014 There Plant Eyes: A Personal And Cultural History Of Blindness by Leona Godin

A history of blindness across art, literature, and culture, exploring how blindness has been used throughout time as a metaphor for both ignorance and transcendence. The author presents connections to the science of blindness, accessibility developments, and humanity's larger understanding of the world. 2021.

DB93533 More Than Meets the Eye: What Blindness Brings To Art by Georgina Kleege

Author of Sight Unseen (DB 48328) critically examines the ways institutions make art accessible to blind people and the connection of visual arts with language. Uses personal experiences, scientific studies, and historical literary analysis to support her arguments. 2018.

July 28: "Excavating a Life: Megan Marshall" Author Event: Pulitzer Prize winning biographer Megan Marshall will be in conversation with author Heather Clark about her memoir.

DBC11807 After Lives: On Biography And The Mysteries Of The Human Heart by Megan Marshall

In the richly absorbing essays of After Lives, Marshall turns her narrative gift to her own art, life, and the people in it. In each of six essays, Marshall reinvents the personal essay form, as a portal to the past and its lessons for living into the future. 2025.



Patron Recommendations:

DB134744 Found Money by James Grippando (suspense)
Single mother Amy Parkens feels trapped by a boring job, low pay, and no time for her young daughter. But that's before two million dollars in cold, hard cash arrives in an unmarked box. Desperately needing the money, Amy fears a setup, or a connection to her mother's suicide twenty years earlier. So she sets out to find the source. A decent, responsible small-town doctor, Ryan Duffy didn't expect to inherit a fortune from his electrician father, who had millions stashed away in the attic. Did it come from extortion, robbery, or some other terrible crime? Painful as it is, Ryan is drawn to his father's dark past, determined to find the truth. Desperate for answers, Amy and Ryan soon cross paths on a dangerous quest that takes them through a labyrinth of deception and black-mail, leading them to a man of unfathomable power who holds the key to their fortunes ... and their lives.1998.

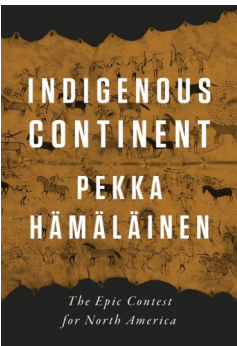
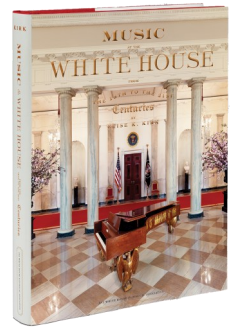
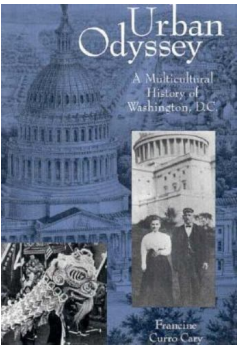
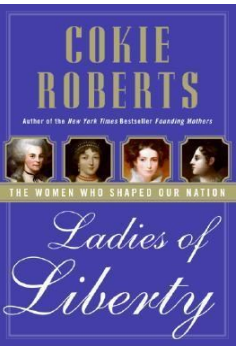
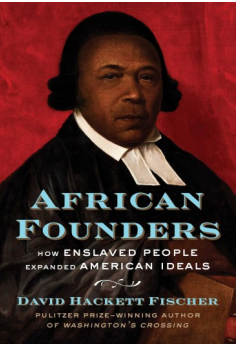
New and Popular Books on BARD:

- DB136427 The Crossroads; Joe Pickett 26 by C.J. Box (mystery)
- DB136925 Revenge Prey; Lucas Davenport 36 by John Sandford (myst)
- DB136531 It's Not Her by Mary Kubica (psychological fiction, suspense)
- DB136697 Want To Know A Secret? by Freida McFadden (suspense)
- DB136934 Hope Rises; Walter Nash 02 by David Baldacci (suspense)
- DB136533 Rogue; Robin Monarch 01 by Mark T. Sullivan (spy, adventure fiction)
- DB136049 Judge Stone by Viola Davis and James Patterson (legal suspense)
- DB136555 Whispers In The Valley; Sisters Of The Heart 02 by Amanda Cabot (rel. fic.)
- DB136600 A Season Of Grace; Amish Bonnet Sisters 04 by Samantha Price (rel. fic.)
- DB136694 Mafia: A Global History by Ryan Gingeras (true crime)
- DB136708 Getting Naked: The Quiet Work Of Becoming Perfectly Imperfect by Valerie Bertinelli (memoir, stage and screen)
- DB136837 Nothin' Comes Easy: The Life Of Rodney Dangerfield by Michael Starr (bio)
- DB135652 Blindness For Beginners: A Renewed Vision Of The Possible by Maribel Steel
- DB136827 Heartland: A Forgotten Place, An Impossible Dream, And The Miracle of Larry Bird by Keith O'Brien (sports, biography)
- DB133815 Fats Waller by Maurice Waller (biography, music appreciation)
- DB136480 Deepening Your Prayer Life: Audio Bible Studies: Approach God With Boldness by Charles Stanley (religion)



America 250: Celebrating The Founding Of America:

- DB110628 African Founders: How Enslaved People Expanded American Ideals by David Hackett Fischer
Explore the history of how enslaved people from different African regions interacted with European colonists to create new regional cultures in the colonial United States. The Africans brought with them linguistic skills, techniques of animal husbandry and farming, and generations-old ethical principles. This history reveals how much our country was shaped by African influences in its early years, producing a new, distinctly American culture. 2022.
- DB66603 Ladies Of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation by Cokie Roberts
News analyst Roberts portrays influential American women who lived between the 1797 inauguration of John Adams and that of his son John Quincy in 1825. Highlights accomplishments of first ladies, reformers, educators, and explorers, including Abigail Adams and Sacagawea. Companion to Founding Mothers (DB 58361) 2008.
- DB43195 Urban Odyssey: A Multicultural History Of Washington, D.C. Seventeen essays that trace the immigrant history of the nation's capital. Tells how every ethnic group, from the early Native Americans to the recent Koreans, has struggled to preserve its community network and cultural traditions. 1996.
- DB27241 Music At The White House: A History Of The American Spirit by Elise Kirk
Starting with the music performed at the home of President Washington, and focusing on the musical history of the White House (first inhabited in 1800), the author provides a comprehensive, highly readable chronicle of the musical performances at the nation's oldest important showcase for the performing arts. 2017.
- DB110928 Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest For North America by Pekka Hämäläinen
Shifting our perspective away from Jamestown, Plymouth Rock, the Revolution, and other well-trodden episodes on the conventional time-line, the author depicts a sovereign world of Native nations whose members, far from helpless victims of colonial violence, dominated the continent for centuries after the first European arrivals. 2022.



America 250: Celebrating The Founding Of America:

DB60330 1776 by David McCullough

Historian chronicles the struggles of the Continental Army during the disastrous year of 1776. Highlights George Washington's failed New York campaign and the retreat across New Jersey. Assesses the political, economic, and social problems the young nation encountered during the turbulent months from August to December. 2005.

DB85550 The American Revolution: A Very Short Introduction by Robert J. Allison

Presents an examination of the origins of conflicts between American colonies and the thriving British empire. Describes the evolution from resistance to revolt, including military actions and commanders. Reviews the newly independent states' efforts to create their governments. 2015.

DB93794 The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot Against George Washington by Brad Meltzer

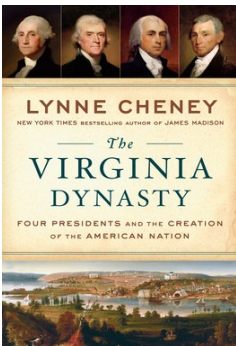
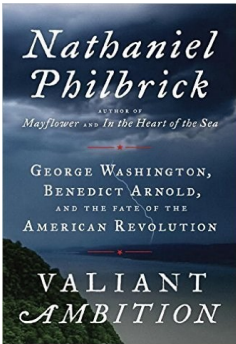
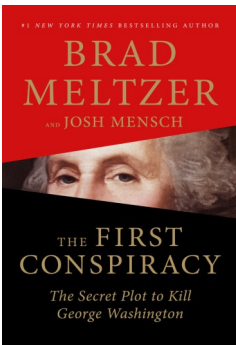
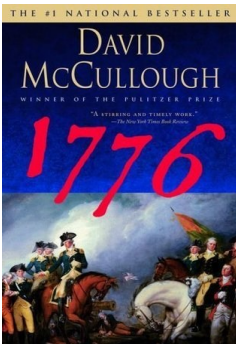
An account of a treasonous plan by George Washington's bodyguards, working together with New York City mayor David Mathews and New York governor William Tryon, to kill the commander in the months leading up to the Revolutionary War. 2019.

DB56501 Benjamin Franklin: An American Life by Walter Isaacson
Chronicles the life of founding father Benjamin Franklin from his shop-keeper beginnings to his dealings with Europe's aristocracy during the American revolution. Examines Franklin's ability to continually reinvent himself as scientist, diplomat, writer, and political thinker. 2003.

DB84626 Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, And The Fate Of The American Revolution by Nathaniel Philbrick
Historian looks at the first four years of the Revolutionary War, focusing on two generals. Chronicles George Washington's many early defeats in battle, and his complicated relationship with Benedict Arnold. 2016.

DB135632 The Virginia Dynasty: Four Presidents And The Creation Of The American Nation by Lynne V. Cheney

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe were born, grew to manhood, and made their homes within a sixty-mile circle east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Friends and rivals, they led in securing independence, hammering out the United States Constitution, and building a working republic.



Color Titles: Blue:

DB08903 Mr. Blue by Myles Connolly (historical fiction)
A religious visionary squanders a fortune and delights in his poverty. Living in a packing house atop a New York skyscraper, he joyously preaches and practices the gospel of love. 1928.

DB36239 Men In Blue; Badge Of Honor 01 by W.E.B. Griffin
(police fiction, mystery)

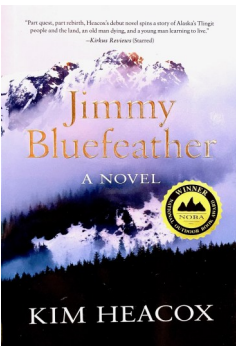
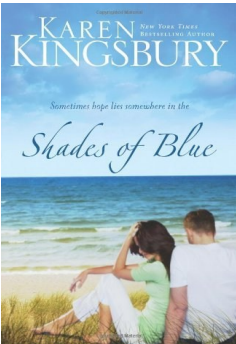
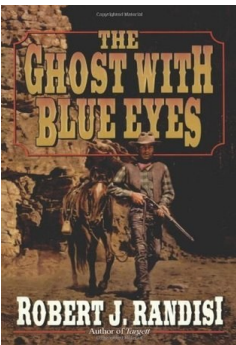
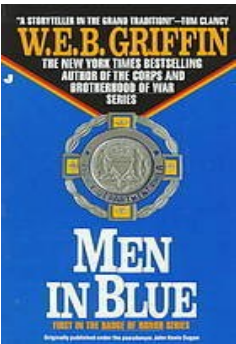
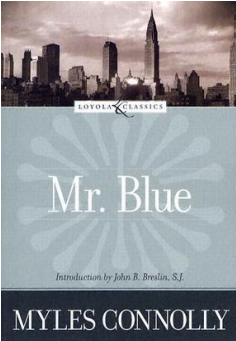
Philadelphia highway patrolman Dutch Moffitt is gunned down in a diner holdup during a "meeting" with newscaster Louise Dutton. Staff inspector Peter Wohl volunteers to handle the Dutton aspect of the case and promptly falls in love with her. Another murder, the inner workings of the police department, and a large cast of characters round out this first installment of a series. 1988.

DB50226 The Ghost With Blue Eyes by Robert J. Randisi (western)
Kansas, 1883. Lancaster, a gunfighter, is confronted by a man who mistakenly believes himself to be Lancaster's target. In the showdown, a girl is accidentally killed. The guilt-ridden Lancaster gives up on life and loses himself in the bottle, until another child in distress presents him with an opportunity for personal redemption. 1999.

DB70484 Shades Of Blue by Karen Kingsbury (religious fiction)
Successful New York advertising executive Brad Cutler, engaged to the boss's daughter, feels guilty about encouraging his high school girlfriend Emma Landon to have an abortion nine years ago. Flying home to North Carolina, Brad seeks Emma's and God's forgiveness. 2009.

DB84331 Jimmy Bluefeather by Kim Heacox (adventure fiction)
Old Keb is ninety-five--maybe, he cannot remember--part Tlingit and part Norwegian, and the last canoe carver in his village. When his grandson James is injured in a logging accident, Keb helps him build a canoe, and they travel into the interior of Alaska, evading authorities and loved ones. 2015.

DB36797 Blue Angel: The Life Of Marlene Dietrich by Donald Spoto
The spotlight shines first on a drama student/chorus girl in Berlin. While Dietrich begins to attract attention in theaters and cabarets in the 1920s, the film Blue Angel creates her image as a glamorous star and attracts Hollywood contracts. A dedicated entertainer of World War II Allied troops, she returns to the stage in her later years. Spoto also goes behind the scenes to examine her equally famous private life. 1992.



Pulitzer Prize Winners From The 1980s:

DB50482 A Confederacy of Dunces by John Kennedy Toole (fiction)
Slovenly, obese Ignatius Reilly is forced to seek employment in New Orleans after his tipsy mother has a car accident. Reilly, a medievalist who hates everything modern, runs through a succession of jobs in which he wreaks havoc. 1980.

DB17315 Rabbit Is Rich by John Updike (fiction)
1979. Forty-six-year-old car dealer Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom lives in comfortable affluence with his wife and mother-in-law in Pennsylvania. But his son's return and unresolved issues about sex and death threaten Rabbit's contentment. (contains explicit descriptions of sex). 1981.

DB58842 The Color Purple by Alice Walker (fiction)
Follows two black sisters: Nettie, a missionary, and Celie, who was raped by her father and is married to a cruel man. Nettie's letters do not reach Celie, and Celie's shame is so great that she writes only to God. (contains explicit descriptions of sex). 1982.

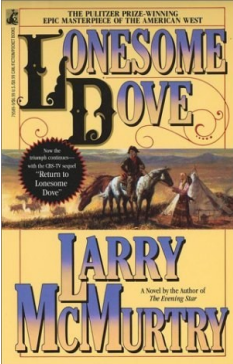
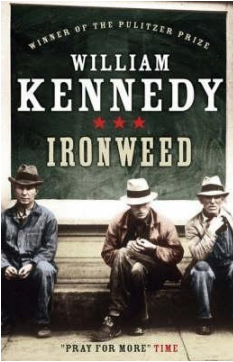
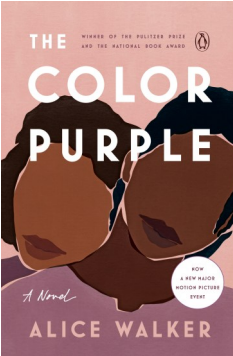
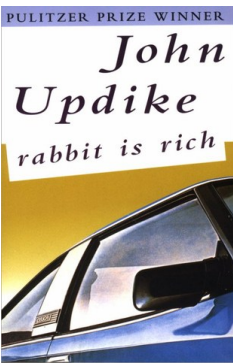
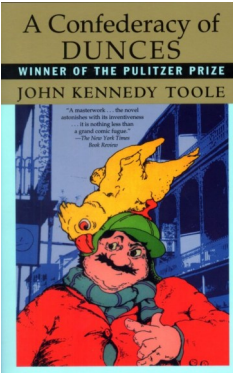
DB20612 Ironweed by William Kennedy (fiction)
Depression era. Aging Francis Phelan, a former mechanic, major-league third baseman, lush, and murderer, is back in Albany after twenty-two years on the lam. He encounters crooks, bums, cons, gamblers, and working stiffs. (contains explicit descriptions of sex). 1983.

DB21440 Foreign Affairs by Alison Lurie (fiction)
Two English professors, both Americans, from the same university are on leave in London to do research. Both Vinnie and Fred indulge in affairs with unlikely persons to learn more about themselves. 1984.

DB22959 Lonesome Dove by Larry McMurtry (fiction)
A three-thousand-mile cattle drive, from the banks of the Rio Grande to Montana, is the setting for this epic that describes the developing West and the ranchers, cowboys, prostitutes, and adventurers who attempt to make a new life for themselves in its vast reaches. 1985.

DB26026 Beloved by Toni Morrison (fiction)
In post-Civil War Ohio, ex-slave Sethe hides a terrible secret about her past that alienates her children and community and threatens her burgeoning romance with another former slave, Paul D. 1987.

DB27019 Breathing Lessons by Anne Tyler (fiction)
As Maggie and Ira Moran drive from Baltimore, Maryland, to Deer Lick, Pennsylvania, for the funeral of Maggie's best friend's husband, they reflect upon their own twenty-eight-year marriage, the lives of their children, and their hopes for the future. 1988.



Pulitzer Prize Winners From The 1980s:

DB30259 The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love by Oscar Hijuelos (fict)
Cesar Castillo pours himself another drink and remembers his life thirty years ago. He and his brother Nestor had fled Batista's Cuba and formed The Mambo Kings, a jazz group playing the clubs of Harlem. Now Cesar is dying, drinking, and mourning the loss of his youth, and past loves. (contains explicit descriptions of sex). 1989.

DB17316 The Soul Of A New Machine by Tracy Kidder (science)
Data General Corporation's race to design and build the Eagle, a brand new "32-bit supermini" computer, in a year and a half. A group of brilliant and unusual people work together under extreme pressure to achieve "something unforgettable in their working lives." 1981.

DB116913 The Social Transformation Of American Medicine: The Rise Of A Sovereign Profession And The Making Of A Vast Industry by Paul Starr (health, 1982)

DB21205 The Good War: An Oral History Of World War II by Studs Terkel (history, 1984)

DB24243 Move Your Shadow: South Africa Black And White by Joseph Lelyveld (world history, 1985)

DB22967 Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade In The Lives Of Three American Families by J. Anthony Lukas (nonfiction, 1985)

DB25164 Arab And Jew: Wounded Spirits In A Promised Land by David K. Shipler (world history, 1986)

DB25626 The Making Of The Atomic Bomb by Richard Rhodes (hist.)
A comprehensive account for the general reader of the world-shattering discoveries of nuclear physics. Focuses on the people behind the microscopes and in front of the blackboards. 1986.

DB28014 A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann And America In Vietnam by Neil Sheehan (world history)

Tells of America's involvement in Vietnam and of his friendship with the controversial Lt. Colonel John Paul Vann, who criticized the way the war was waged and leaked his pessimistic assessments to the press. 1988.

DB31552 And Their Children After Them by Dale Maharidge and Michael Williamson (general nonfiction)

Fifty years after "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men" was published, another writer-photographer team retraces the original team's footsteps, to discover what has become of those people and their hopes and dreams. 1989.

