

# Window to the World

**Newsletter of the Tennessee Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH)**

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## **TLBPH Has a New Assistant Director**

We mentioned in the last issue of Window to the World that Clayton Altom was joining the library as the new assistant director. We didn't have much information on him then, because he had just started work with us. Within a couple weeks from his start date, he and his wife, Jill, also welcomed their second son, Seth. Clayton came to us from Clarksville Public Library, where he was supervisor of the circulation department. That makes him a good fit for us, as our circulation department is a major priority in his position with TLBPH. Clayton also worked at the Tennessee State Library and Archives previously in the public services section, so he knows his way around our building and is familiar with state government procedures. With the birth of Seth, Clayton and Jill are especially glad he no longer has to drive to Clarksville every day and we are very glad he has joined us.





# Table of Contents



**The End of an Era..... page 2**

**On Your Mark, Get Set..Read..... page 3**

**Staff Picks.....page 5**

**Upcoming Holidays ..... page 6**



## The End of an Era

Anyone who has been a patron of the TLBPH since before 2009 is familiar with the “books on tape” that were a ubiquitous part of our service for many years. The National Library Service (NLS), the division of the Library of Congress that provides most of our audio books, ceased production several years ago of both the books and magazines recorded on audiocassettes and the cassette players.

Since 2009, all of the audio books that have been added to our collection have been on digital cartridges. These cartridges have the entire books on single cartridges and play on the digital players. Some cartridges have more than one title. In addition, many of the older titles that were produced on cassettes have been converted to digital format to play on the digital player. Audio magazines from TLBPH have been available on cartridges since 2013.

TLBPH is in the process of discontinuing circulation of books on cassettes and the trusty yellow cassette players. The tapes inside the cassettes have become very brittle and often pressure pads have fallen out of them, making them difficult to use. In addition, since we have received no new yellow cassette players since 2006 when NLS stopped production, the players themselves are ready for retirement. We are also discontinuing circulation of our descriptive video collection for the same reasons—tapes are brittle, cases are deteriorating, and very few of our patrons still have VHS players.

If you are no longer using your cassette player, please return it and any of the cassette books you have out. **NOTE:** The cassette books have two holes and were mainly shipped in green cases. The digital books have only one hole and are mainly shipped in blue cases, although there are some gray and some white translucent ones circulating, too.



If you still have the box you received the cassette player in, it may have a mailcard. If so, it will be pre-addressed to us. All you need do is turn the mailcard over so your name no longer appears and send it to us through the U.S. Postal Service. In addition, the cases for the cassette books should also have these cards. However, if they are missing, please contact your reader advisor for a card and/or adhesive label for you to use in returning these items to us.

Please be sure to use the U.S. Postal Service, not FedEx or UPS, as only the U.S. Postal Service will deliver the items to us without charge.

## On Your Mark, Get Set... READ!

Come one, come all, and join our summer reading club for children. The 2016 theme focuses on getting and staying healthy by following good eating and exercise habits. When children register for the club, they will be sent a listing of suggested titles following the theme, but they are not required to read any of the books on the list. They just need to read something to keep their brains fit and exercised!

The reading club is open from June 1 through July 29. You can register by calling the library at (800) 342-3308, or emailing [ruth.hemphill@tn.gov](mailto:ruth.hemphill@tn.gov). After children are registered, be sure to

encourage them to read books and/or magazines. Once they read a book, whether it is from the library or not, have them call Ruth or their reader advisor and we will add that title to their book list. At the end of the club, they will be sent a list of all of the titles they read over the summer.

In addition, we will have a drawing for prizes. Their names will be entered in the drawing for each title they read, so the more books they read, the greater their chances of winning. However, they could win if they read just one book! Prizes include:

**Grand Prize (1 prize):** a talking compass to assist in exercise walking or traveling on errands

**First prize (2 prizes):** simulated leather cases for digital talking book players from the library

**Second prize: (3 prizes):** talking pedometers to help keep track of the number of steps walked each day

Call Ruth or their reader advisors today to register for “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read,” so children will keep reading until school starts next year!



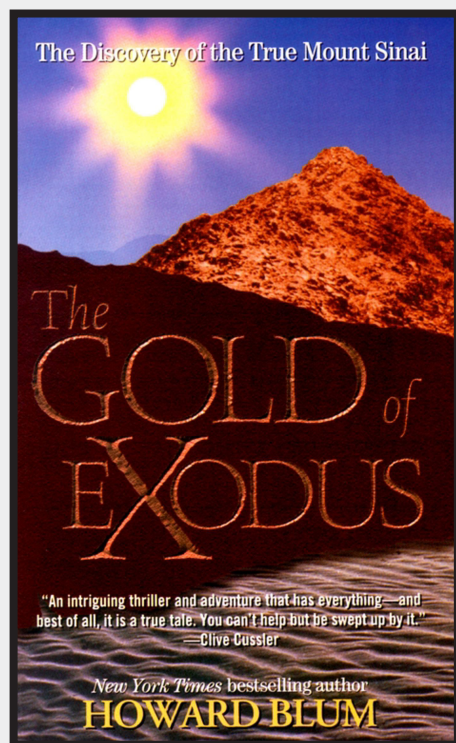


## Staff Picks

I decided this issue's "Staff Picks" would be from me, Ruth Hemphill, editor and outreach librarian. I like a wide variety of titles, but I do prefer novels. However, as I get older, I find I'm reading more and more nonfiction, too! Here are my current recommendations:

*Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness*, by Susannah Cahalan is the story of one woman's battle with a rare brain infection that made her seem to be an alcoholic, or mentally ill, and her eventual treatment and recovery. It is available as DB 76047 or LP 13341.

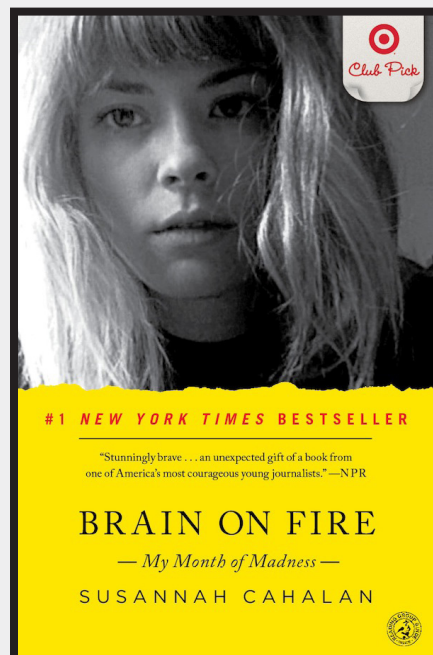
*The Gold of Exodus: The Discovery of the True Mt. Sinai*, by Howard



Blum is part archaeological discovery, part suspense as

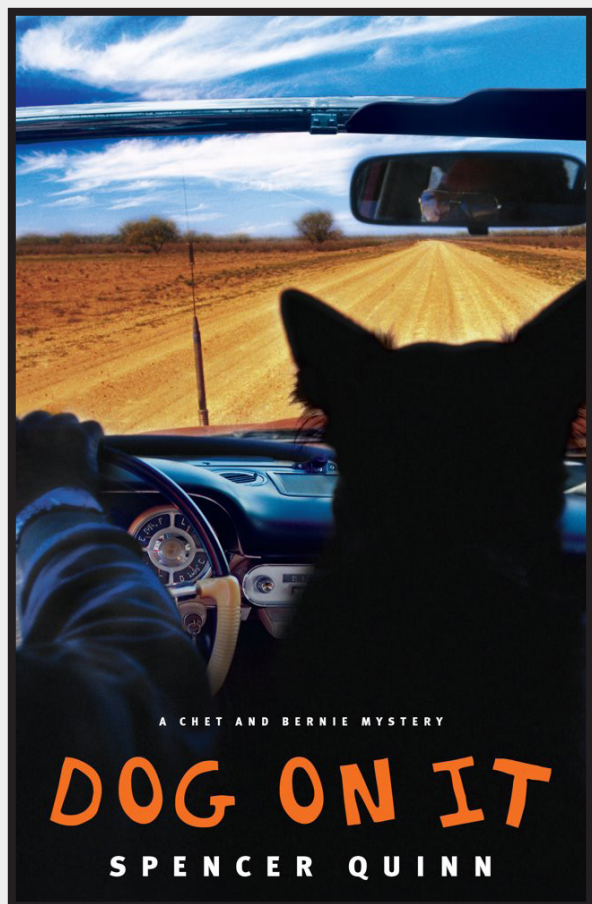
two adventurers sneak into Saudi Arabia to find locations mentioned in the Bible, but also discover a highly secret military installation. BR 14453, DB 65259.

*The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah, is a World War II novel of two French sisters during the Nazi occupation, and the differing paths they took to fight the Nazis and



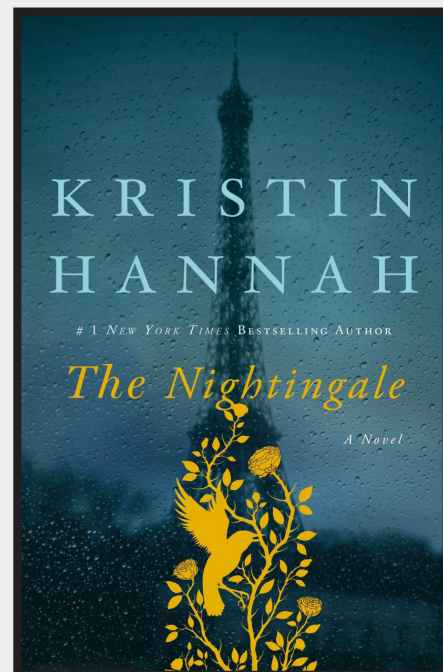
keep their homeland safe. DB 81189 or LP 17132.

Although I find titles in series very frustrating to follow, and often joke that they should not be included in library collections, the “Chet & Bernie” series by Spencer Quinn is a “must-read” for mystery fans who are also dog



lovers. The first one is *Dog On It* (DB 68453, LP 10598).

The books are told by Chet, the private detective's dog who is also his side-kick. Chet's specialty is “grabbing perps by the pant-leg.” The series is currently up to eight titles, and the latest is a cliff hanger. As is true with many series, you don't have to read them in order, but it's more fun if you do. The Chet and Bernie mysteries are available in audio format and large print.



## Upcoming Holiday:

TLBPH, along with most other state agencies, will be closed on the following holiday:

May 29 Memorial Day

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### **Administration and Staff**

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