

WINDOW TO THE WORLD

VOLUME 21, SPRING 2019



Library for Accessible Books and Media

Tennessee State Library & Archives

Secretary of State Tre Hargett



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The construction crews at the new TN State Library and Archives building have been very busy! Our spaces will be located on the first floor, with some exciting new spaces that I can't wait to open for you. We'll have a comfortable reading room, an Audio Heritage Lab where we can record our own audio books, and an Accessible Early Literacy Engagement Center designed specifically for learning braille.

MARIA SOCHOR,
DIRECTOR

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 27th
Memorial Day
Library closed

July 4th
Independence Day
Library closed

August 16th
Call-In Storytime
10:00 AM

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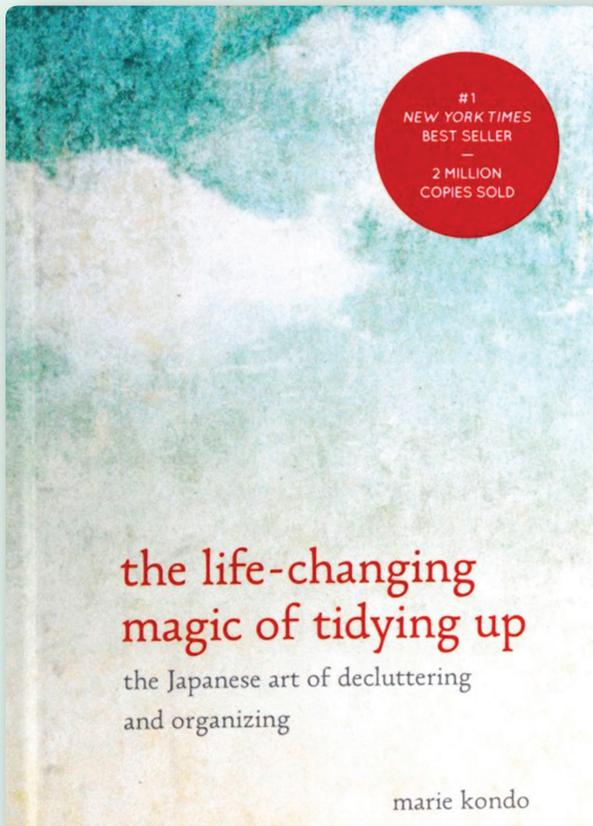
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ERIN'S PICKS



Erin Lankford, Reader Advisor, loves books all across the board. At work, she admits that she is either deep in a classic novel or in a good piece of fluff.

When asked about what she's reading now, she said she's on the Marie Kondo wagon with the "Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up." With her New Year goals, she is saying no to the buildup in her life

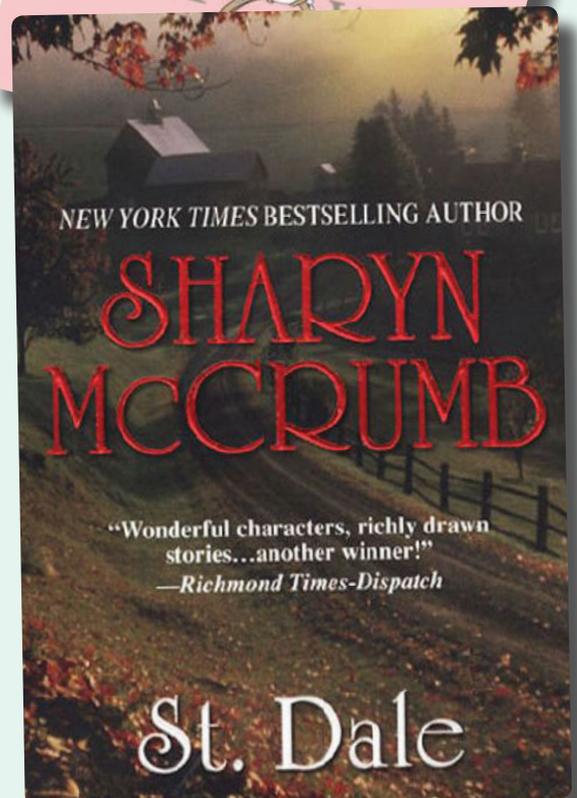
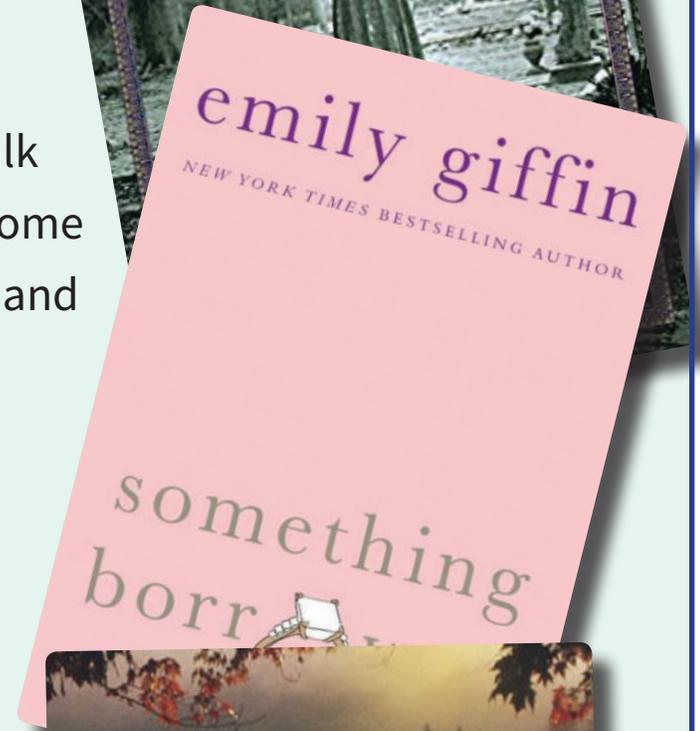
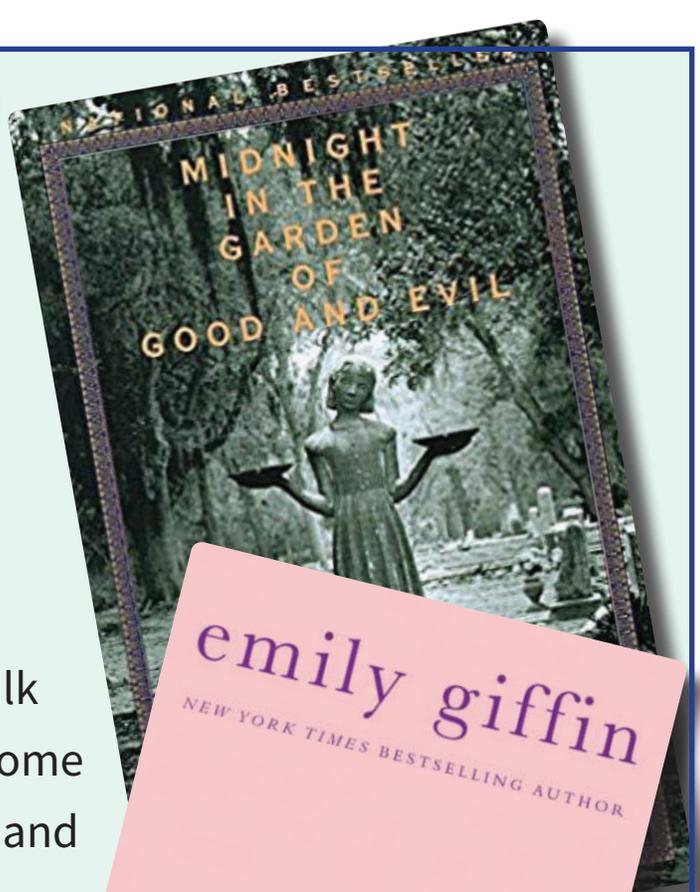
and learning to minimize! You can get in the cleaning mood too by checking it out in audio (DB 80607) or braille (BR 21362). If you have already experienced her magic, try the sequel, "Spark Joy," available in currently in audio (DB 83450) and braille coming soon!

As the weather changes and spring comes upon us, Erin likes to get a good piece of light-hearted fluff to set the coming summer mood. Her favorite fluff is "Something Borrowed" by Emily Giffin (DB 66386). As plans are underway for her best friend Darcy's wedding,

Rachel celebrates her 30th birthday and begins to wonder “what-if.” This book is followed by the sequel “Something Blue” (DB 66578).

Another summer title is the nonfiction book, “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil” (DB 38077 and BR 11463). Set in Savannah, GA, the book is a lovely walk through the famous city with a look at some interesting characters. Add in a murder, and it’s a page-turning experience.

Finally, Erin recommends “St. Dale” by beloved Appalachian author Sharyn McCrumb (DB 60629). A departure from her usual novels about the Appalachian South, this story is told from the great coliseums of the South, the NASCAR racetracks. A sort of modern “Canterbury Tales,” the characters are relatable and their stories will stay with you. For fans and novices alike!



THANK YOU!

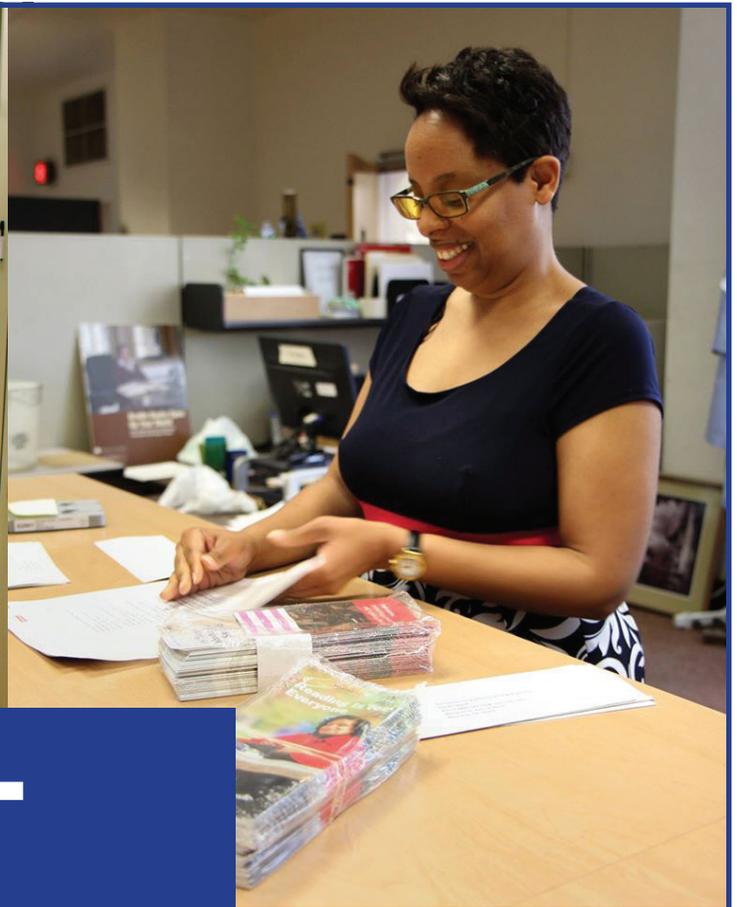
Thanks so much to all who participated in our recent satisfaction survey! We really appreciate the time and effort you took to carefully submit your responses. We apologize that printing delays meant that some of you didn't receive the survey until after the stated deadline. Please know

that the deadline was just to encourage you to go ahead and respond promptly. We have continued to tally your responses.

Several of you added comments we wish we could respond to personally, but since the survey is anonymous, we cannot. If you noted a book request, please call us at (800) 342-3308 so we can fill your request. There were also requests for a listing of available books. While we do not have a comprehensive

catalog that we could send to you, we do have an online catalog at www.accessiblelibrary.org where you can see what we have in our collections and request titles independently. In addition, we do send out bimonthly catalogs of the newer audio and braille titles in our collections called "Talking Book Topics" (TBT) and/or "Braille Book Review" (BBR). These catalogs are both available in large print, while TBT is also available in audio format and BBR is available in braille.

Several of you (or whoever completed the survey for you) indicated that you didn't read our newsletter "Window to the World" because you are blind. We are happy to tell you that you can get "Window to the World" in audio and braille formats, too. Just call us at (800) 342-3308 to request a subscription in the format that works for you.



STEADFAST VOLUNTEERS

Providing services to our patrons is certainly a team effort at the Tennessee Library for Accessible Books and Media (TLABM). We have a group of dedicated volunteers that contribute to departmental operations in numerous ways. Cary Johnson, our longest serving volunteer, began assisting us in September 2014, though he has been a TLABM

patron for much longer. Cary volunteers on a weekly basis and can most often be found immersed in cartridge duplication, so that our patrons can get a copy of a book we no longer have in stock. However, he readily jumps in with any incidental projects that are required. Clarisse Durnell, a volunteer since August 2016, also

serves on a weekly basis but has a more varied task list. She helps out with a little of everything from answering phones to preparing outreach materials to packing virtual story time kits. Cary and Clarisse often do not know what their tasks will be until they arrive but jump in feet first no matter what. They add so much to our department and we greatly appreciate their support, flexibility, and devotion.

Another volunteer group offers their time on a biweekly basis with a massive, long-term project that is currently underway. Our partnership with the Perkins Library now gives us the opportunity to share the majority of our braille collection with an institution that can utilize them. Since September 2018, women from the Daughters of the American Colonists (Prudence

Hall Chapter) have assisted in the labor intensive process of removing books from the shelves and preparing them for shipment. This stalwart group has so far spent a combined total of 85 hours filling 1,771 boxes. Since each box weighs an average of 10 pounds per box, these ladies have moved over 8 tons of reading material! We will be ready for the move to the new building next year, in part, due to their significant contribution.





MEET BEN!

Ben is the newest Reader Advisor at the Tennessee Library for Accessible Books and Media, and he is proud to serve Tennesseans by spreading the joy of reading. Ben loves fantasy and science fiction novels and pop music, and is also an avid board gamer. For three years running, he has watched 100 new movies each

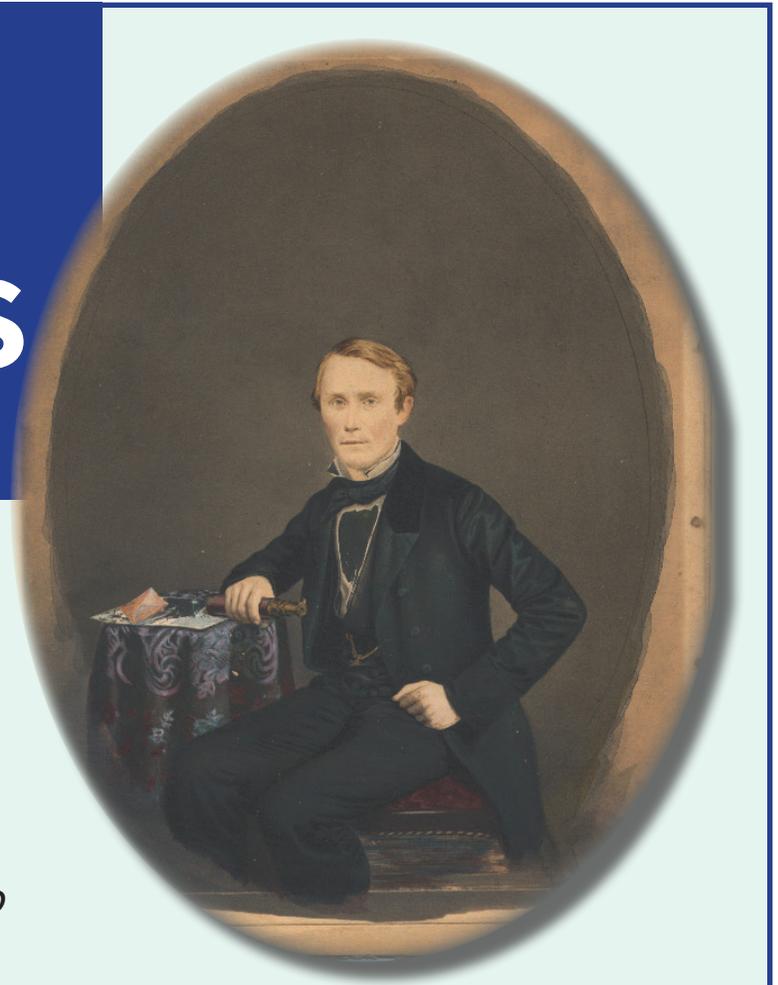
Reader Advisor, L-R

year, and is always open to new recommendations. Ben lives in Nashville with his wife and their four dogs and three cats.

We welcome Ben to the Tennessee Library for Accessible Books and Media!

TENNESSEE PRESIDENTS

Known as the “Grey-eyed Man of Destiny,” Nashville-born President of Nicaragua, William Walker was executed by the Honduran government at Truxillo, Honduras on September 12, 1860. In this studio portrait, Walker is seated with props symbolizing his expansionist vision: a telescoping spyglass and map. Tennessee State Library & Archives Collection Photo.



Here’s a quick trivia question: Can you name five Tennesseans who each became President? If you’re an avid student of our state’s history, you probably won’t have any trouble naming former U.S. presidents Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, or James K. Polk. But a fourth or fifth?

It’s a trick question, because there were also Tennesseans who later became presidents of foreign countries, such as Sam Houston, who led the briefly-independent Republic of Texas, and William Walker, who was inaugurated as president of Nicaragua in 1856. While most of us are quite familiar with Sam Houston, Walker isn’t as

well-known.

In his day, Walker was quite infamous for his efforts to colonize Central America Three years before he became president of Nicaragua, the Nashvillian led a group of 45 men who landed in Baja California, Mexico. Walker declared the land to be the Republic of Lower California and proclaimed himself to be the new country's president. Mexican forces soon threw him and his troops out of the country and he was tried (but acquitted) for violating U.S. neutrality laws when he returned.

Walker then led a group of 57 soldiers into Nicaragua. After fighting a number of battles and eventually becoming president, he launched a plan to “Americanize” the country by declaring English the official language and encouraging U.S. residents to immigrate there. He was later

ousted by the combined forces of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. After unsuccessfully attempting to regain the presidency of Nicaragua, he was eventually captured and turned over to the Honduran government, which executed him for piracy.

“The story of William Walker is one of thousands that can be found at the Tennessee State Library and Archives,” said Secretary of State Tre Hargett.



*Tennessee State Library & Archives
Collection Photo*

Getting Started with BARD

Our free book download system, BARD, puts our full collection of audio books at your fingertips. If you have a smart phone or a tablet and haven't downloaded the BARD Mobile app, this is the perfect time!

Layout of the app:

- 1) Bookshelf- This contains the books you have downloaded
- 2) Get books- Contains wish list, recently to BARD, previous downloads, most popular books, browse magazines, and the BARD website.
- 3) Settings- Audio settings, display settings, and user account settings
- 4) Now reading – This is where you can play the books that you've downloaded. The screen is set up like a mini version of the digital talking book player.

Tips and Tricks:

In the settings, under audio settings, turn the “Background Playback” on so your device does not have to stay open and run the battery down while you listen to a book. If a book doesn't play all the way through or there's an error message, there are two options that will usually get you back on track. One option is to completely shut down the app and bring it back up, or you can delete the book and re-download it from the “Previous Downloads” section of the “Get Books” heading.



As the saying goes, the best time to prepare for an emergency is before one happens. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends a four step process to get prepared for the unexpected: get informed, make a plan, assemble a kit, and maintain your plan and kit. The pamphlet “Preparing for Disaster for People

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

with Disabilities and other Special Needs” has extensive information about how to complete each of those steps. This pamphlet is available in multiple formats from the FEMA website at www.fema.gov, or you can call (800) 480-2520 to request other options to access this pamphlet.

Gaming For Everyone

Since their humble beginnings in the 1980s on gaming consoles like the Atari, video arcades across the world, and even text-based computer games that progress like a “choose your own adventure” storybook, video games have



continued to gain popularity in the entertainment industry. Why? For many gamers, it is the immersive quality that video games provide; the freedom of action in a virtually enhanced world achieved through both visual and auditory means that keeps them engaged

and entertained. Thanks to a few innovative creators, video games are now entering an era of accessibility that promises gameplay for all.

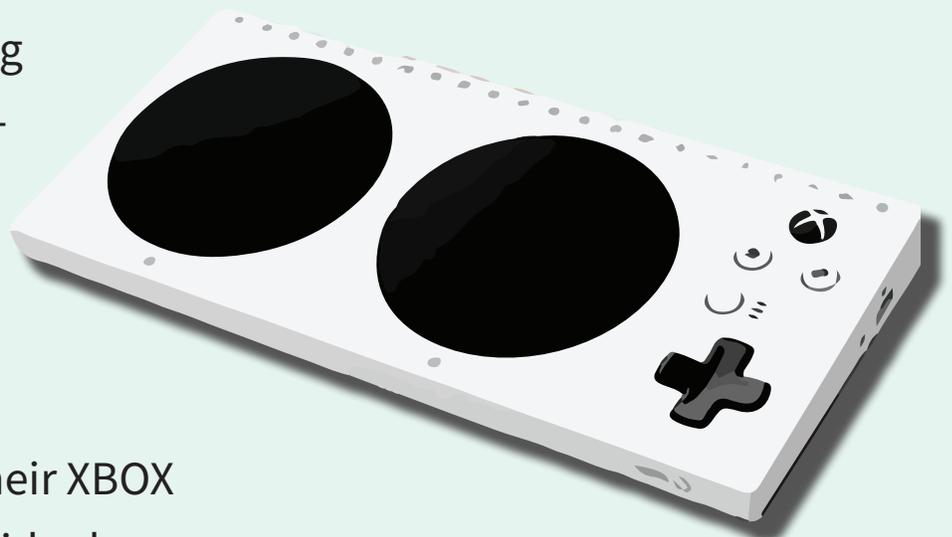
Audio games are helping to bridge the gap between gamer communities using verbal

descriptions, music, musical cues in sound design, and even controller vibrations to create immersive audio experiences. Instead of focusing on visually-driven landscapes and gameplay, game designers around the world are creating quality gaming options that force the player to take on a new perspective, one that relies solely on auditory stimulation and reaction. Racing games are even getting a face lift when it comes to game play. The *Racing Auditory Display* program, created by computer scientist Brian A. Smith, allows gamers with little or no sight to enjoy racing games through an audio-based interface and advanced auditory displays. Microsoft has even developed an adaptive controller for their XBOX console that allows individuals

with physical limitations to enjoy gaming with a more simplified button configuration.

The fully auditory game *A Blind Legend* offers medieval fantasy adventure and features gameplay based around listening for an opportunity to strike at foes based on their footsteps and breathing.

With each passing year, new technologies and innovative designs bring the excitement of video games to more people. We are entering the golden age of accessible gaming!



**Tennessee Library for Accessible
Books and Media
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**Free Matter for the
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This publication was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State of Tennessee. Window to the World is published quarterly by the Tennessee Library for Accessible Books and Media, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Department of State. It is available in audio, braille, and online at <http://sos.tn.gov/tsla/labm>. Please call the Library at (800) 342- 3308 to request alternate formats. Administration and Staff: The Honorable Tre Hargett, Secretary of State; Chuck Sherrill, State Librarian & Archivist; Maria Sochor, Director; Clayton Altom, Assistant Director; Ruth Hemphill, Outreach Librarian; Danelle Scruton, Administrative Services Assistant III; Heather Fach, Content Access Specialist; Eric Raines, Audio Content Specialist; Carmelita Esaw, Computer Operations Specialist; Jerry Clinard, Library Assistant IV; and Bill Kirby, Machine Associate. Reader Advisors: Cathy Bale, Rebecca Melvin, Erin Lankford, and Ben Wicks. In providing information to readers, the announcement of products and services should not be considered an endorsement or recommendation by the Library. Department of State, Authorization No. 109806, 4,500 copies, May, 2019. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.96 per copy.