THE BROADCASTER

**R A D I O T A L K I N G B O O K S E R V I C E**

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER │ 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# Thank you for helping RTBS Celebrate 50 Years of Service!

As we reflect on 2024 and celebrating 50 remarkable years of service, we are bursting with gratitude for all who have been part of this journey! This milestone could not have been achieved without the tireless efforts of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters. Whether you contributed your time, expertise, or resources, YOU have played a pivotal role in making this anniversary year one to remember.

To our volunteers, thank you for your compassion and commitment. Your voices, your time, and your unwavering support have made our broadcasts a trusted and essential resource. To our donors and partners, your generosity ensures that we can continue to offer these vital services to those who need them most. You helped us raise over

$70,000 in our $50K for 50 Years efforts! Together, we have not only reached this extraordinary anniversary but have also strengthened the foundation for another 50 years of service! Your belief in our mission has helped us grow, evolve, and expand our reach, bringing us closer to our vision of an accessible, inclusive world. Thank you!

# We Celebrated!

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who supported our 50 Years of Service Celebration on September 18th, 2024! It was an honor to share our history and look ahead to the future with so many familiar and new faces. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over $10,000 at the event!

A special thanks to John Fullerton, Richard Parker, and Jane Nielsen for sharing your memories and experiences. Shout out to Michael Halula for being a fantastic announcer, and to the entire RTBS team - Ryan, Cami, and Bekah - for their stories, hard work, and dedication.

**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!**

Radio Talking Book Service is excited to announce we will be holding our 9th Annual Wining in the Dark at Nosh Wine Lounge! Tickle your taste buds with wines from around the world and delight in delectable delicacies created for your pleasure by the chef at Nosh Wine Lounge.

WHEN:

Sunday, April 13

4 to 6 p.m.

WHERE:

Nosh Wine Lounge 1006 Dodge Street, Omaha

Get your tickets today!

There will be a raffle including Omaha Storm Chaser box seats, a Nebraska Bookshelf filled with signed copies, a golf outing, dinner at Dolomiti Pizza, and more!

Seating is limited. Please purchase tickets by April 11 at rtbs.org or call 402-572-3003 to RSVP. Tickets are $80/person including gratuity, raffle entry, and a donation to RTBS.

Sponsorship opportunities available; contact Bekah at 402-572-3003.

**SAVE THE DATES!! DO GOOD DAYS ARE APRIL 23-26**

## Join in SHARE Do Good Days, April 23-26!

These 4 days are focused on all forms of support for local causes, and we can’t wait to see what the Omaha metro can do when we give together for more than one day!

Team RTBS is excited for our **Community Read- a-Book-a-thon** during Do Good Days! We are inviting folks to pop in to read a chapter (or two!) of a Nebraska authored book with a goal to finish recording the book in three days to broadcast on-air for our listeners!

## Do Good Days makes it easy to support us with your dollars – and more!

Visit shareomaha.org/nonprofit/radio- talking-book-service-inc to learn more!

**APRIL VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:**

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS**

M A R C H 2 0 2 5 : L I Z K E R R I G A N

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5 : J O E W A T S O N

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 5 : D E B A D Y

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 4 : D O N V A N

M O O R L E G H E M

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 4 : R I T A K U E N N I N G

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 4 : B O B B A S T A R A C H E

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 4 : A N I T A T H E O P H I L U S

A U G U S T 2 0 2 4 : T O M V I T A M V A S

J U L Y 2 0 2 4 :

M I K E S I G M O N D

J U N E 2 0 2 4 :

M I C H E L L E R A N K I N

M A Y 2 0 2 4 :

L E S L I E J E F F E R I E S

**HANK KUHLMANN**

If you listen to Hank Kuhlmann read the Omaha World Herald every Tuesday morning on RTBS, it won’t surprise you to learn that he has a background in broadcasting. His warm, gregarious voice has a way of putting listeners at ease,

even when he’s reading the grimmest of news.

Hank grew up in Sioux City, IA, where he attended Morningside College. There, he began doing booth announcing and station ID’s for the local TV station. Eventually, he moved to Omaha, where he worked at KESY and Light 96 radio, before transitioning to a long career with Omaha Steaks as a Training Specialist until his retirement in January of 2024.

Hank and his partner Don will never starve, as their freezer is full of discounted meat from Omaha Steaks. When Hank isn’t grilling dinner and hanging with Don and his cat, he loves to travel,

attend Broadway plays, edit photos, collect antiques, and watch old black-and-white movies.

IN MEMORY OF: JUDITH ‘JUDY’ PRICE

To learn more about Hank Kuhlmann, catch his interview with Ryan O, broadcast on Friday, April 18 at 5:45pm, repeated on Saturday, April 26 at 12:15pm. You can also listen on demand on our podcast page.

BY-RYAN OSENTOWSKI, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

BEKAH JERDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

I am so grateful for the generous and celebratory response to our 50 Years of Service in 2024! A huge thank you to my incredible team – Cami, Michael, and Ryan – whose efforts led to a year of growth, connections, and astonishing results. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers, Board of Directors, and generous donors,

large and small, for an amazing 50th Year!

Audio Description is creating new connections in our

community. In 2024, RTBS provided AD services for 62 individuals and ensured accessibility at 43 performances or events. RTBS began partnering with The Joslyn to incorporate audio description of art works in their collection. Looking forward, to ensure quality programming, RTBN will be improving our recording booths with added soundproofing and updated mixers in 2025. In the control room, we will be streamlining processes and implementing updated technology to improve the quality of the broadcast.

**A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

RTBS had an amazing 2024. We proudly celebrated our 50th anniversary with tremendous style and flair. 2024 set a high bar for our organization. We accept that challenge and look forward to surpassing what we have done in the past.

As our population ages, the need for the essential services

BOB BURNS BOARD CHAIR

Radio Talking Book Service provides -- critical news, vital health information, delightful entertainment, and audio description of local arts events -- continues to grow.

As Board chair, I want to thank the volunteers whose generous donations of time and talent make our programming possible. I would also like to thank our listeners, the foundations and compassionate donors who selflessly support our mission, along with the individuals of our RTB family who together make it possible for us to continue to deliver the news and programs that our listeners rely on.

Finally, I would like to thank our incredible staff, Bekah, Ryan, Cami and Michael, who do an amazing job of maintaining a high standard of delivering our services to our listeners.

**DONATIONS: April 2024-March 2025**

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### ORGANIZATIONS/COMMUNITY GROUPS

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