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 2023 NEWSLETTER │ 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**RTBS Announces New Service in 2023!**



**Audio Description: Ensuring Accessibility**

Radio Talking Book Service is thrilled to announce the addition of our newest service, Audio Description! From Broadway to ballet, RTBS partners with community venues to provide equal access to programming and events through audio description services.

This service empowers attendees with a visual disability to join family and friends for an exhibit, performance, or event. Then, using a headset provided by RTBS, they listen to a trained audio describer relate the visual information in real time. This can include costumes and sets, artwork, the antics of a team’s mascot, animals in a zoo habitat, the spectacle of a parade, Christmas lights twinkling in the night, and so much more!

Audio Description makes arts and culture accessible for everyone. Imagine Cinderella dropping her slipper, a priceless ancient artifact, or the winning goal, all of these examples are visual moments. We work to make these moments available for everyone. The audio describer uses breaks in action to narrate the visual material for the attendee with a visual disability. This ensures that everyone can attend an event together and everyone can understand the action.

RTBS is currently partnering with the Rose Theater and the Orpheum Theater to provide AD. Find upcoming described performances on our website, [www.rtbs.org.](http://www.rtbs.org/) Additionally, you can contact RTBS to request the service at a performance, event, outing, or venue not listed or if you have any questions at all about AD.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**



Radio Talking Book Service is excited to announce we will be holding our 7th Annual Wining in the Dark at Nosh Wine Lounge! Test your taste buds with wines from around the world in a blindfolded tasting and delight in delectable delicacies created for your pleasure by the chef at Nosh Wine Lounge.

WHEN:

Sunday, April 23

4 to 6 p.m.

WHERE:

Nosh Wine Lounge 1006 Dodge Street, Omaha

Get your tickets today!

There will be a raffle including a night at the Omaha Symphony, original art by Bart Vargas, a signed Taylor Swift vinyl, two Film Streams packages, and more!

Seating is limited. Please purchase tickets by April 20 at rtbs.org or call 402-572-3003 to RSVP. Tickets are $75/person including gratuity, raffle entry, and a donation to RTBS.

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

**SAVE THE DATES!! DO GOOD DAYS ARE APRIL 19-22**

**Join in SHARE Do Good Days, April 19-22.** 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 will keep you posted about how you can bring the printed word to life during Do Good Days! There will be matching funds available during Do Good Days to make your donations go twice as far! **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 3 :

R O N S U P R E N A N T

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 3 : D E B A D Y

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 3 : B O B B R O W N

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 2 : S U E M O U T T E T

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 2 : J O H N B O W E N

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 2 : D I A N E J O H N S O N

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 2 : M A T T H E W L E A F

A U G U S T 2 0 2 2 : J E A N E N G L I S H

J U L Y 2 0 2 2 :

J E F F G R I N N E L L

J U N E 2 0 2 2 :

M A R I L E E K E L L Y

M A Y 2 0 2 2 :

M I C H A E L F O U T C H

**KAREN COTÉ**

Karen Coté likes to say, “I’m not from anywhere.” She was born in Virginia, but life as a kid in an Army family proved to be a nomadic existence.

Her family finally put down roots in Memphis when she was a teenager, then she attended college in Tulsa.

She then took a job in the

restaurant industry, which brought her to Omaha, where she has lived for the last 43 years. She met her future husband while working at Jack and Mary’s. They have a son, a grandcat and two rescue pets.

After paying her dues working as a lettuce chopper in several restaurants, Karen spent most of her professional life working as a food purchaser for the Marriott Regency hotel. She retired five years ago and has filled her time volunteering at RTBS and the Humane Society. She is active at Dundee Presbyterian, enjoys gardening and looming hats.

She had a connection to RTBS long before she came to us as her brother-in-law’s mother, Joanne Boyer, was a volunteer coordinator at one time and she always encouraged Karen to donate a portion of her time and talent to reading for us. Karen finally followed through four years ago and has been a solid voice for us ever since. Karen is a woman of deep faith, a fact that is easily discernable whenever you hear her read from Guideposts Magazine. Catch Karen every Sunday afternoon at 1PM, with repeats at 1AM, on RTBS.

IN MEMORY OF:

DEANN BRIGHT CAROLE 'ANN' BOICE LARRY SEYL GLENDORA WEILAND NAOMI MARION

BY-RYAN OSENTOWSKI, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

BEKAH JERDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RALPH MOROCCO BOARD CHAIR

2022 was an amazing year at RTBS! We added lots of local programming in 2022: Mind Your Business, Nebraska Virtual Newsstand, Southeast Nebraska Newspapers, and the Sioux City Journal, increasing our regional newspapers offerings from 12 to 17. We have refreshed our Bookshelf program to focus on fiction and nonfiction books written by Nebraska authors.

Moving forward, RTBS will utilize a hybrid of in-person and remote readers to provide the vital, local programming our listeners rely on. This led to a decision to decrease our square footage. In July 2022, we reduced our physical space and rent payment by approximately forty-five percent.

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

RTBS is thrilled to announce the addition of a new service in 2023, Audio Description (AD). From Broadway to ballet, RTBS partners with community venues to provide live audio description for performances and community events. Audio Description makes arts and culture available for everyone.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude and admiration of our dedicated, resilient staff, volunteers, and board for ensuring our listeners access to RTBS programming. For all the ways YOU support RTBS, thank you!

# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Radio Talking Book has just completed its first full year under the energetic leadership of Bekah Jerde. It has been a year of growth in our listening audience, reduction in the size of our office, and the addition of our new audio description service.

To prepare for whatever is next, the entire staff and some Board members will be engaged for a day of strategic planning in April, facilitated by RTBS board member Melissa Smith. This effort will be designed to position RTBS to better serve our growing audience, prepare us for technology changes that may affect how listeners access our services, and help us deal with the challenges faced by small non-profit organizations.

As Board chair, I want to thank our volunteers, including board members who help guide the organization, and those whose voices, talent and commitment of time, bring our programming to life. I would also like to thank our donors – the Omaha Association of the Blind, the foundations, individuals, and listeners – who have helped us to meet the needs of those who count on us for the news and information that is so critically important. Finally, I would like to thank our small staff, Bekah, Ryan, Cami and Michael, who are working each day to keep our services available for listeners.

**DONATIONS: April 2022-March 2023**

## CORPORATE/FOUNDATIONS

The Adah and Leon Millard Foundation Alan & Marcia Baer Foundation

Bank of the West Blackman & Associates PC Boomer Radio

Bridges Investment Management Community Foundation for Western Iowa Dixon Family Foundation

Edward & Lida Robinson Charitable Trust Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation Farm Credit Services

Gilbert M. & Martha H. Hitchcock Foundation The Hawks Foundation

Ike & Roz Friedman Foundation Immanuel Vision Foundation JK Barker Foundation

Kroger / Dillon Stores The Lozier Foundation

Manota E. Simon Foundation Marilyn N. Scott Trust

Marshall & Mary Brondum Special Assistance Foundation The Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation

The Milton S. & Corinne N. Livingston Foundation Oliver & Ferrol Barklage Foundation

Omaha Performing Arts Omaha Theater Company Pettit's Bakery

Retina Center of Nebraska Robert Herman Storz Foundation Robin Hill Fund

Rupert Dunklau Foundation The Sherwood Foundation The Steinhart Foundation Thrivent Financial Walgreens

Webster Family Foundation William R. Patrick Foundation

## WINING IN THE DARK 2022 SPONSORS

Paula Dietering, Prairie Wealth Advisors Golden Years Senior Relocation LLC Security National Bank

Outlook Nebraska Bonnie Jerde

The Brant Senior Living: Gretna Identity Marketing

Matt Jetter, Medicare Insurance Solutions EmSpace + Lovgren

Rahl Foundation Michael Pflueger Bartekah, LLC

## ORGANIZATIONS/COMMUNITY GROUPS

Aurora Lions Club Battle Creek Lions Club Clay Center Lions Club

Columbus Noon Lions Club Cook Lions Club

Crete Lions Club Gordon Lions Club

John C. Fremont Lions Club Neligh Lions Club

Ogallala Lions Club

Omaha Westside Lions Club Papillion Area Lions Club PEO Sisterhood Chapter EC Pierce Lions Club

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Scottsbluff-Gering Lions Club

St James United Methodist Women Tekamah Lions Club

The Original Bookies Wallace Lions Club

## UNDERWRITING

CCA Home Care Hillcrest Heath Systems Outlook Enrichment Senior Blue Book

## INDIVIDUALS

Jamie Abernathy Caralee Adams Deb Ady

JoAnn & Fred Aliano, Sr Melanie Anania

Jon Anderson Marcia Anderson Nancy Anderson Anonymous Howard Bachman Kim Balkovec Melissa Barnett Mary Barnhart Brian Bartels

Paul Bartels Bob Bastarache Cindy Bedford Susan Beeghly Kaye Bellino

Nolan & Lorene Berry Sandra Bianchi Scott & Sharon Bird Melodee Bock

## INDIVIDUALS INDIVIDUALS INDIVIDUALS INDIVIDUALS

Patty Bogatz Kate Bolay

Joni & Bill Bollinger Mikell Bowsman Frank Brannon

Pat Brennan DeAnn Bright Janice Bright

Grant & Barbara Brollier Judy Brooks

Bob Brown

Lawrence & Joan Friend Christina Frost

John & Elizabeth Fullerton Robert & Nan Fullerton Scott & Tricia Fullerton Beth Furlong

Peter Gadzinski Tom Garvey Bob Goding Polly Goecke

Doris Goembel

Rebecca Armstrong Langle Sharon Larson

Cynthia & Philip Lee Raymond LeFaivre Mary Jane Leistra Wendy Leitch

Ed Leslie Lenora Levin Beverly Lydick Gina L. Mack

Kenneth Mahaffey

Jane Onken-Roberts & Jim Roberts

Paul Orwig Caitlin Osborn

Rich & Karen Osentowski Ryan Osentowski Dolores Ostrom Maureen Panzer

Cathy Ann Pasko Lyle Paul

Caroline Pennington

John & Rosemary Brownrigg Katherine Graham

Gina Maloley

Larry Peterson

Greg & Sue Bruening Mark Bulger

Robert Burns Kym Bybee

Nick & Evelyn Calava Jim Carlson

Bill and Sarah Carver Rachel Carver Dianna Cato

Cami & Shell Cavanaugh Rawlings

Dr. John Chedester Jill Chleborad

Norman and Phyllis Choat Michael Clauson

Pamula Clifford Nancy Coffman Christopher Cold Laura Cooper David Corbin Karen Coté

Kim E Crayne Alistair Cullum Mark Davis Paula Deitering

Melinda Dominguez Marie Dougherty Marina Drake Lucille Dunlavy Aaron Duspiva

Lori Ecklebe Gary Emenitove Mary Ensz

Joe Ernst Margaret Fegler Amy & Todd Feltz Mark Fidone Nancy Flearl George Flock Sarah Fratt

Sol & Lois Friedman

Christian Gray

Patrick & Jocelynn Gray Sherri Green

Donna Grimm Jeffery Grinnell Rachel Grossman Richard Gulizia Terry & Judy Haney Teresa Hansen

Lee Harlan

Dick Harrington Linda Hatfield Amy Hatter Cheryl Hazel Phyllis Heimann Lakelyn Hogan Helen Hohndorf Lindsey Holley Nancy Holloran Kathy Hoyt

David Huelsmann Kim Huff

Sharon Ishii-Jordan Margaret Janssen

Bekah Jerde & Bart Vargas Bonnie K. Jerde

Judy Johnson Donn Jones

Kim Jubenville Carlson Susan Kelley

Lori Kesinger John Kieran Vickey Kleinsmith Nick Klissiaris Tara Knapp

Barb Knapper Marj Krawczyk

Jack & Marie Kubat Barbara Kuhn Howard Kutler David Laferla

Yano & Cindy Mangiameli Joe Marino

Randell Martin Amy Mather

Bob & Terri Mathews Rhonda Matney Julie McCarty

Tom McCaugherty Lynn McCormack Janet McCrae Catherine McGowan Melissa McMullen Loretta McNally

Linda & Thomas A. Mertz John Miller

Mark & Carolyn Miller Rick & Jane Miner Steve Minor

Ron Mohler Bev Mohr

Paulette & Phil Monthei Ralph Morocco

Jo and Steve Morton Judy Moslander

Sue Mouttet Karen Murphy Paul Murphy Kathy Mussack Nadine Nadrchal Bill Naidenovich Mark Nasser Barbara Naughtin Jane Nielsen

Diane & Joe Nietfeldt Jessica Nitsch Patrick Noonan Becca Norrie

Janet Nuss RE Nystrom

Kristen Oertell Kathleen Ogden

Michael Pflueger John Phillips

Jon and Dorothy Polan Mike Prenger

Judy Price

Carol Ravnsborg Shiela Rawlings Melissa Ray

Daniel & Annie Rezac Carol D. Reznicek Mary Reznicek

Marty Riemenschneider Jo Roberts

John Rogers Laura Romito Carol Sanderhoff Kelle Scott

Larry & Judy Seger Tanya Shaul

Tom & Sue Sheeren John Shepherd

Paul & MaryLou Sherrerd Curt Siemers

Mike & Stephanie Sigmond

Susan Slominski-Caster Melissa Whittle Smith Darvin & MeMe Smith Kyle Soares

Willard Spech

Karen & Kevin Staley Karen Stander

Laura Steffes Rick Stone

Maureen & Matt Strain Chris & Barb Stratman James Surber

David Sutherland Robert Swanda Jr Jeanne Swartz Barbara Switzer Mary Talen

Mike Taylor

## INDIVIDUALS

Anita Theophilus Sheryl Thomas Catherine L Tierney Linda Todd

Ralph Tosti Kaye Travnicek Deb Trivitt

Jaimee Trobough Erin Van Zee

Bart Vargas

Terry & Patti Veylupek Tom & Bev Vitamvas Lois & Harris Voss

Vic Wagner Marialyce Walsh Sarah Watson Steve Wehrbein Misty West

Jean Wheatcraft Jason Whitney David Wiesman Sally Wilhelm Steven Willoughby Fran Witt

Dolores Wolsleben Jenny Wulff

John & Sara Young Margaret Youngberg

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Dr. Prema Abraham Ada & Mamie

All Military Vets Gale Bowers

Cami Cavanaugh Rawlings Lucille Dunlavy

Friedman Children

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF

John & Elizabeth Fullerton Michael Halula Bekah Jerde

Ed Leslie Jack Martin Janet McCrae

Ralph Morocco Ryan Osentowski Mona Jean Roberts RTBS Staff Veylupek Family

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Jim Acuff Fred Aliano, Jr

Audrey Wright Anderson & George C. Anderson

Gloria & Kenneth Armstrong Christine Ann Bachman Dave Bandi

Robert Bianchi Ina Bock

Sarah Bogatz Ann Boice Opal Bosn DeAnn Bright Frank Calava Dorothy Carter

Jefford & Pat Cold

Craig & Marian Fullerton Josephine Curro

Ann Davis

Betty Dougherty Bernice & Isadore Falk Anne Foley

Shirley Goodro

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Millie Hansen

Wanda & Myron Harris Mary Eva Henney Betty Hohndorf

Jack & Sheila Brownrigg Dean Janssen

Trudia Jones Elizabeth Kiewit James F. Krier Urdine Lancaster Martha LeFaivre

Leighton & Marietta Lee Robert Dean Major Naomi Marion

Elaine McCrae & Andrea Otness Trudy Miller

Betty Minor

Debbie Misenhetler Jan Moritz

Ethel & Milford Murphy Jane Peterson

LaVon & Kay Peterson Leona Nadrchal

Joan J Paul Bill Pfeiffer

Gwen Rasmussen Mary Rook

Ruth Sage Robin Tosti Alice Wagoner

Mickie I. Waldron Tom Walsh Glendora Weiland Bud Wheatcraft Georgia Wheeler Ron Witt

Dick Zlab

*Radio Talking Book Service thanks everyone for their generous support!!*



**RTBS Board Members RTBS Staff**

Ralph Morocco, President Michael Pflueger, Vice President Kyle Soares, Treasurer

Richard Harrington, Secretary Robert Burns

Rachel Carver Christopher Connor, OD John Miller

Stephen Papenfuss, MD Melissa Smith

Bekah Jerde, Executive Director

Ryan Osentowski, Program Director

Cami Cavanaugh Rawlings Communications Director

Michael Halula, Board Operator