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**

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

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