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 2022 NEWSLETTER │ 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## A Fond Farewell to Jane!

In December 2021, RTBS wished Jane Nielsen happy trails in her retirement after 5 years of leadership! A note from Jane:

"Farewell and Thank YOU! It has been a joy, an honor, and a privilege to work with amazing Volunteers, a fabulous Team, and wonderful Board Members since October of 2016! I am excited for my next chapter--retirement--doing whatever I want whenever I want! Travel to see family and friends, read, walk, play the piano, Lions Club, and my church activities-- and seek new adventures!

My very Best Wishes to Bekah, Ryan, Michael and Cami-the sky is the limit-can't wait to see what the next chapter holds for RTBS! With much appreciation for all YOU do!"

-JANE NIELSEN

## NEW Team Member Alert!

RTBS’ new Communcations Director, Cami Cavanaugh Rawlings, is no stranger to radio. She spent over 20+ years providing the most accurate live radio and tv traffic reports in Omaha as Cami Carlisle. After leaving radio in 2016 for a new career in the nonprofit world, Cami’s nonprofit work lead her right back to radio at RTBS. In her new role, Cami brings years of broadcasting experience to the team as well as her wide knowledge of nonprofit how to.

Cami is on the Omaha Girls Rock Executive Board and also volunteers for OGR’s summer camps as a band coach. In her spare time, Cami likes to rock out with her band, Bathtub Maria, and enjoys spending time in the garden with her wife, Shell. They have 5 crazy cats and 2 elderly dachshunds that take up the remainder of their time.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

Radio Talking Book Service is excited to announce we will be holding our 6th 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 24

4 to 6 p.m.

WHERE:

Nosh Wine Lounge 1006 Dodge Street, Omaha

Get your tickets today!

There will be a raffle including a 6-month membership to Nosh's Wine Club! One of our multi-talented volunteers, Anita Jaynes, will be providing entertainment on her harp.

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 Bekah at 402-572-3003.

**SAVE THE DATES!! DO GOOD DAYS ARE MAY 17-19**

**Join in SHARE Omaha’s Do Good Days, May 17- 19, presented by FNBO.** These 3 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 2 : S T E P H A N I E

M I S K E

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2 : B I L L E V E R H A R T

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 2 : N A N C Y D I R K S

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 1 : S T E V E H A N K S

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 1 : M I C H A E L A H A R T

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 1 :

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 1 : S U E B U R G E R

A U G U S T 2 0 2 1 : J O H N N O W N E S

M A Y 2 0 2 1 :

J E A N S I T T E R

**SHARON ISHII-JORDAN**

The smooth, reassuring voice of Sharon Ishii-Jordan is a ubiquitous presence on RTBS. She can be heard reading about science, health and technology, all subjects she cares a great deal about.

Raised in a military family, she grew up on three continents. She was born in Japan, lived at various U.S. military bases

where each of her four siblings were born, and spent time in Spain and Germany as a child before settling in Omaha for high school and college.

Like so many of her fellow volunteers, Sharon is a teacher. She specializes in English Language Learning and Special Education. Her teaching venues were as diverse as Omaha Public Schools, Creighton University, and a psychiatric hospital. She was also the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Creighton. She retired in 2015, but she wasn’t finished being an educator. She has been a substitute teacher at OPS as well as an ESL Mentor working with an Afghani refugee woman on behalf of Lutheran Family Services.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

DEANN BRIGHT JUDY PRICE

In addition to RTBS, she donates much of her time to the Japanese-Americans Citizens League, as well as Saint Leo’s Catholic Church. She currently lives in Omaha with her husband and stays in close touch with her two adopted adult children and her granddaughter. Sharon has no pets, having never gotten over her husband’s refusal to allow her to own a Gila monster. You can hear Sharon Ishii-Jordan every Tuesday reading Science & Environment, as well as various segments of Health & Wellness and Bookshelf on RTBN.

IN MEMORY OF:

BILL MANNING TOM WALSH

BY-RYAN OSENTOWSKI, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



BEKAH JERDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RALPH MOROCCO BOARD CHAIR

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I am honored and excited to be selected as the new RTBS

Executive Director. I began my journey at RTBS as a volunteer in 2013 recording programs including Good Old Days, Consumer Information, and more. In 2015, I was hired as the Office Manager. Spring 2016 found me in the role of Interim Executive Director.

That fall, I became the Assistant Director, working with and learning so much from Jane Nielsen. I am excited to lead such an inspirational, amazing team: Ryan, Cami, and Michael!

With resilient and committed volunteers as well as access to necessary technology, RTBS rose to the challenges posed by the pandemic that have affected us all. RTBS spent 2021 navigating our cadre of volunteers, functioning as remote readers since March 2020, safely back into the studios. In 2022, RTBS will utilize a hybrid of in-person and remote readers to provide the vital, local programming our listeners rely on now more than ever!

2022 is off to a great start with more local, current programming being implemented and new connections being made. I cannot begin to express my gratitude and admiration for our dedicated, resilient staff and volunteers, ensuring our listeners access to RTBS programming. For all the ways YOU support RTBS, thank you!

# A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As coronavirus vaccines protect more of us, RTBS has continued to

adapt to pandemic-related changes. Last year, our dedicated volunteers were reading from home, as our talented staff worked to keep our broadcasts coming and our volunteers and staff safe. Now, RTBS has accommodated improving circumstances, bringing back volunteers for on-site recording and live programming. Dedicated volunteers who were unable to record remotely, waited patiently, and many who had been off duty because our studios were closed have now returned to the delight of our listeners.

In the past year, we also bid Godspeed to Jane Nielsen, who retired after five years of dedicated RTBS leadership. The RTBS Board was fortunate to be able to appoint Bekah Jerde, who had served five years as assistant director, to fill the position of Executive Director. We look forward to Bekah’s leadership to help us bring the printed word to life for our listeners.

As Board chair, I also want to thank the volunteers whose generous donations of time and talent make our programming possible. 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 those who count on us for the news and information that is so critically important at this time.

**DONATIONS: April 2021-March 2022**

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

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