

March and April 2024

# CT LAB Newsletter

## Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, Connecticut State Library

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### CT LAB News

#### CT LAB Book Club

The next CT LAB book club will meet virtually on April 17, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The title that we are reading for April is *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* by Dani Shapiro. This title is available as a Talking Book on cartridge and from BARD as DB 93800. A summary of the book follows:

A memoir about the staggering family secret uncovered by a genealogy test: an exploration of the urgent ethical questions surrounding fertility treatments and DNA testing, and a profound inquiry of paternity, identity, and love. In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had whimsically submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her father was not her biological father. She woke up one morning and her entire history--the life she had lived--crumbled beneath her. *Inheritance* is a book about secrets--secrets within

families, kept out of shame or self-protectiveness; secrets we keep from one another in the name of love.

Please register for the book club by calling Paula McLean at 860-704-2216 or 800-842-4516. Participants will receive the Zoom meeting link or dial in phone number for the book club meeting following registration.

## **Connecticut Talking Books**

Connecticut Talking Books are recorded by volunteers from Talking Books CT/CVSBH. When books are completed, CT LAB transfers the Talking Books to BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download. BARD is a service offered by CT LAB and the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled at the Library of Congress.

## **Connecticut Talking Books Now Available**

- **DBC 06320 A Violet Season** by Kathy Leonard Czepiel. Struggling to survive on a late nineteenth-century Hudson Valley violet farm that provides their family little money, wet nurse Ida and her beloved daughter, Alice, make painful sacrifices that set them against each other. Access the [catalog record for DBC 06320](#).

- **DBC 06313 The Mystery of Hunger Mountain** by Susan Winters Smith. Jan Whitlock, the young investigative reporter in "The Mystery at Seymour Lake Lodge" continues to search for an answer to the gnawing hunger inside her soul. She returns to the area of Vermont where she grew up, and there in Shady Rill, in the shadow of Hunger Mountain, she is challenged in ways she never expected. Access the [catalog record for DBC 06313](#).
- **DBC 02572 Ballad of the Whiskey Robber: A True Story of Bank Heists, Ice Hockey, Transylvanian Pelt Smuggling, Moonlighting Detectives, and Broken Hearts** by Julian Rubinstein  
Follows the misadventures of Budapest bank robber Attila Ambrus, who struggled in his pursuit of women and a career as an untalented hockey goaltender before taking up crime, and profiles the investigators assigned to his case. Access the [catalog record for DBC 02572](#).
- **DBC 28363 Wife of the Chef** by Courtney Febbriello. The story of a husband and wife team who own an upscale American bistro in Simsbury, Connecticut. He's the chef so he gets all the adoration. She's the one who keeps things running and has her say in this no-holds barred memoir of the restaurant business with a revealing look at married life. Access the [catalog record for DBC 28363](#).

# National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) Updates

## BARD Mobile Updates

### BARD Mobile Android

NLS released BARD Mobile Android version 2.1.0, introducing enhanced features and improvements. Among the highlights:

#### ***In-app search functionality***

A fully supported in-app search function, including Music Collection search, for a more seamless experience.

#### ***Spanish translation***

The app can now be set so its text and audio are in Spanish. To switch to Spanish, select it as the default language in your device settings. The app's visual and TalkBack interface will adjust.

#### ***International language search option***

- Explore the new international language search option by choosing up to four languages in the app's settings. Filter search results by selecting your preferred language.
- Navigate to: App's Settings > User Account Settings > Language Preferences > Select up to four languages.

- When accessing Get Books – Search, you will have up to four languages based on your settings. Default languages are English and Spanish if no changes are made.

## **BARD Mobile iOS**

NLS has released BARD Mobile iOS version 2.2.2 to the App Store. The enhancements included in this version are:

### ***Siri shortcuts (voice user interface)***

The app can now be operated by voice commands for playback and navigation, including stopping and resuming playback, fast-forwarding and rewinding by various intervals, and setting a sleep timer or a bookmark. Users can add Siri shortcuts in the app's settings.

### ***International language search***

Set up to four languages in the app's settings and then filter search results by selecting a preferred language.

### ***Accessibility improvements for visually impaired users***

We have boosted color contrast between selected and unselected search categories. This update enhances visibility with Smart Invert, Classic Invert, and Dark Mode on.

## **Upcoming NLS Programs**

### **March Patron Corner Program**

Quarterly Patron Corner, presented the second Monday of the third month of the quarter, shares specific information of interest to patrons regarding an announced topic.

On Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. eastern time, the NLS Patron Engagement Section will host the quarterly Patron Corner. The topic for this program is Your Patron Engagement Section: How We Can Provide the Service You Want. The session will last 90 minutes and will feature the NLS Patron Engagement Section, which is responsible for programs and services for all NLS patrons. This will be your opportunity to let NLS know what you'd like to see in the future.

Get program details, login information, and recordings of previous programs at the [NLS Patron corner web page](#).

### **Get to Know the Many Faces of BARD**

NLS staff members offer tips, answer questions, and demonstrate new features of BARD, the BARD Mobile app, and BARD Express each month during **The Many Faces of BARD**. This online event is open to all patrons and is held at 7 p.m. eastern time on the second Thursday of every month.

The topic for the March 14, 2024, Many Faces of BARD program will be Using the Audio Player in BARD Express: A Demonstration. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. eastern time and last for one hour. The session will begin with a brief presentation. The remainder of the time will be spent answering questions about the presentation or other questions related to BARD usage.

Get program details, login information, and recordings of previous programs at the [Many Faces of BARD web page](#).

## **CT LAB Contact Information**

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## **Upcoming CT LAB Holiday Closings**

March 29, 2024 – Good Friday

May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day

June 19, 2024 – Juneteenth Day

July 4, 2024 – Independence Day

September 2, 2024 – Labor Day