

# Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB) Newsletter

January and February 2024

## CT LAB News

### CT LAB Book Club

The next CT LAB book club will meet virtually on January 17, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The title that we are reading for January is *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. When his most prized possession, a rare volume of poetry by Edgar Allan Poe, is stolen, bookstore owner A.J. Fikry begins isolating himself from his friends, family, and associates. Then he receives a mysterious package that compels him to remake his life. This title is available as a Talking Book on cartridge and from BARD as DB 78978.

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.

### Locally Produced Talking Books

Connecticut Talking Books are recorded by volunteers from the Connecticut Volunteer Services for the Blind and Handicapped (CVSBH). When books are completed by CVSBH, CT LAB transfers the Talking Books to the NLS' BARD download service so that these titles are available nationwide for patrons of NLS-network libraries.

CVSBH and CT LAB have been working together to convert Talking Books originally recorded on cassette to digital format. This allows the newly digitized Talking Books to be made available for download on BARD. Below is a selection of Connecticut Talking Books recently converted from cassette to digital format and now available on BARD.

### **CVSBH Books Converted from Cassette Format and Now Available on BARD**

- **DBC 27991 Dare to dream: Connecticut basketball's remarkable march to the National Championship** by Jim Calhoun  
An inside look at the UCONN Huskies and their former coach, Jim Calhoun. Under Calhoun, UConn became one of the best basketball programs in the country. Access the [catalog record for DBC 27991](#).
- **DBC 27999 Sandpiper: the life & letters of Celia Thaxter** by Rosamund Thaxter  
This biography of Celia is written by her granddaughter. Raised on White Island lighthouse at the Isles of Shoals, off Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Celia Thaxter developed a strong sense of the natural history of the islands. Her marriage at age 16 to intellectual Levi Thaxter, was her introduction to the literary world of Boston. Her poems first appeared in The Atlantic and she became one of America's favorite authors in the late 19th century. Many writers, artists, and musicians of the day often came to visit her and stay at the Appledore Hotel run by her family. Access the [catalog record for DBC 27999](#).
- **DBC 28021 The Virgin Blue** by Tracy Chevalier  
Ella Turner and Isabelle du Moulin, two women born centuries apart are tied together by a haunting family legacy. When Ella and her husband move to a small town in France,

Ella begins to research her French ancestry. As the story unfolds alternating between Ella and Isabelle, a common thread emerges that pulls the lives of the two women together in a most mysterious way. Access the [catalog record for DBC 28021](#).

- **DBC 28024 The Probable Future** by Alice Hoffman  
For generations the women of the Sparrow family in Massachusetts have been blessed--or cursed--with clairvoyant powers. When thirteen-year-old Stella has a premonition that lands her father in jail on suspicion of murder, she goes to live in the historic ancestral home where she confronts her haunting legacy. Access the [catalog record for DBC 28024](#).

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

### **Upcoming NLS Programs**

#### **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 January 11, 2024, Many Faces of BARD program will be an open forum with the NLS Download technical support team. The team will take questions related to any BARD product.

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

## **January 2024 Music Notes Program**

The next NLS Music Notes Zoom meeting will take place Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. EST. Music Section Head Juliette Appold and Music Reader Services Librarian Mary Dell Jenkins will talk about Janis Joplin and related items we have in the NLS Music collection. A Q&A online chat will follow. Send us your questions in advance by writing to [japp@loc.gov](mailto:japp@loc.gov).

For a preview, read Mary Dell's [blog post](#) on Janis Joplin.

To attend the program, use any of the following options:

- Join by computer, using the [Music Notes Zoom meeting](#).
- Join by telephone, by dialing (669) 254-5252 or (646) 828-7666. When prompted, enter the meeting ID: 161 873 8515

## **Connect with CT LAB**

### **CT LAB Contact Information**

**Phone:** 860-704-2220 or 800-842-4516 (toll free in state only)

**Email:** [csl.AccessibleBooks@ct.gov](mailto:csl.AccessibleBooks@ct.gov)

**Mailing Address:** 786 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457

## **Upcoming CT LAB Holiday Closings**

January 15, 2024 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 12, 2024 – Lincoln's Birthday

February 19, 2024 – Washington's Birthday

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  
October 14, 2024 – Columbus Day  
November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day  
November 28, 2024 – Thanksgiving Day  
December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day  
January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day