

# CT LAB Newsletter

## Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, Connecticut State Library

January and February 2025

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### CT LAB News

#### CT LAB Book Club

The next CT LAB book club will meet virtually on Wednesday January 15, 2025, from 11:00am to 12pm. The title we will be reading is *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan. This title is available as a Talking Book cartridge and from BARD as DB 90012. A summary of the book follows.

Milan, 1943. Teenager Pino Lella becomes involved in the resistance movement to ferry Jews out of Italy. To save him, Pino's family enlists him in the German army. When he is assigned as a driver for General Hans Leyers, Pino begins spying.

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.

## **Looking for Your Next Great Read?**

You'll find the latest additions to the library's collection in [Talking Book Topics](#) (TBT), [Braille Book Review](#) (BBR), and [International Language Quarterly](#) (ILQ). TBT and BBR are produced bi-monthly and new issues of ILQ are available each quarter. All three publications are available in multiple formats.

For patrons who miss the hard copy version of Talking Book topics in large print, CT LAB can send printed excerpts of Talking Book Topics upon request.

Contact CT LAB to learn more about TBT, BBR, and ILQ or to request printed excerpts of Talking Book Topics.

## **Magazines Available from NLS**

CT LAB patrons have access to dozens of magazine titles in audio and braille format. Magazines are produced by NLS and NLS-network libraries. A full list of magazines is available at the [NLS magazines web page](#) or can be obtained by calling CT LAB.

Contact CT LAB with any questions about magazines, to subscribe to magazines, or if you would like to make changes to your current magazine subscriptions.

## **Connecticut Talking Books Now Available**

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 service. BARD is offered by CT LAB and the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled at the Library of Congress.

Below is a selection of Connecticut Talking Books recently added to BARD. These books can also be sent to patrons on a cartridge.

### **DBC 28454 A Place of My Own: the Education of an Amateur Builder**

Written by Michael Pollan. At a turning point in his life, writer Michael Pollan found himself dreaming of a small wood-frame hut in the woods near his house--a place to work, but also a "shelter for daydreams." Weaving the practical with the philosophical, this book presents a captivating personal inquiry into the art of architecture, the craft of building, and the meaning of modern work.

[Download DBC 28454 from BARD.](#)

## **DBC 28444 In the Hands of Providence: Joshua L. Chamberlain and the American Civil War**

Written by Alice Rains Trulock. This remarkable biography traces the life and times of Joshua L. Chamberlain, the professor-turned-soldier who led the Twentieth Maine Regiment to glory at Gettysburg, earned a battlefield promotion to brigadier general from Ulysses S. Grant at Petersburg, and was wounded six times during the Civil War. He went on to serve four terms as governor of his home state of Maine and became president of Bowdoin College.

[Download DBC 28444 from BARD.](#)

## **DBC 29964 Customs and Fashions in Old New England**

Written by Alice Morse Earle. The details of everyday life in 17th- and 18th-century New England provide a fascinating background to an understanding of the social and political institutions that emerged from the puritan experience. The author devoted a lifetime to searching out and recording the customs, rituals and beliefs of the colonials making a highly readable and sought after source on life in Old New England.

[Download DBC 29964 from BARD.](#)

## **DBC 28420 Captive of Libby Prison**

Written by Stewart J. Petrie. Historical novel based upon the letters of Charles R. Robinson, who served in the 18th Connecticut and 30th Connecticut (colored) Volunteers during the Civil War, was captured twice, and served two terms in the Union Army, Charles Robinson wrote letters home to his family, sharing intimate details of life on the battle lines. Today his great, great nephew, Dr. Stewart Petrie from New Haven has gathered over twenty of those letters, as well as historical notes, to give voice to his second historical novel.

[Download DBC 28420 from BARD](#)

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

### **New e-newsletter Highlights Books on BARD**

The NLS has launched a monthly e-newsletter called Collections Connections. The subscription-based newsletter highlights books that can be downloaded from BARD. In addition to titles focused on a particular theme, the newsletter spotlights books that are newly available on BARD. To start receiving the newsletter, send your email address to [connections@loc.gov](mailto:connections@loc.gov).

## 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 9, 2025, Many Faces of BARD program has been canceled. The next Many Faces of BARD program is scheduled for February 13, 2025. The topic will be Open Forum: An Hour of Answers to Your Questions from the Experts. There will not be a presentation, just a full hour of answers to your questions about anything related to BARD.

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

# **CT LAB Contact Information**

## **CT LAB Hours of Operation**

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

## **Phone Numbers**

(860) 704-2220

(800) 842-4516 (toll free for in-state callers)

## **Email Address**

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

## **Mailing Address**

786 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457

## **Upcoming CT LAB Holiday Closings**

January 20, 2025 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 12, 2025 – Lincoln's Birthday

February 17, 2025 – Washington's Birthday