

CT LAB Newsletter

Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, Connecticut State Library

March and April 2025

CT LAB News

CT LAB Book Club

The next CT LAB book club will meet virtually on Wednesday April 16, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The title we will be reading is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. This title is available as a Talking Book cartridge and from BARD as DB 77138. It is also available in braille format as BR 21495. A summary of the book follows.

Recounts the accomplishments of nine working-class athletes from the University of Washington who beat elite teams at home and abroad and won the gold medal for rowing at the 1936 Nazi-orchestrated Berlin Olympics.

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 approximately one week before the book club meeting.

Mailing Items to CT LAB

A reminder that CT LAB patrons who are mailing Talking Book cartridges, equipment, and book requests to CT LAB do not need to pay postage on these items. These materials may be sent through U.S. Mail as Free Matter for the Blind.

If you are mailing book requests to CT LAB, place the paper with your book orders in an unsealed envelope. In place of postage write or stamp FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND. When mailing Talking Book cartridges and Digital Talking Book Machines to CT LAB, please use the shipping containers that were used to send the items to you.

Contact CT LAB if you have any questions or would like more information about mailing items to CT LAB using the Free Matter designation.

Staff Book Recommendations

There were no new locally produced Talking Books from Connecticut posted to BARD in the last two months. Instead, please enjoy a selection of five books recommended by the CT LAB staff. We have included a mix of fiction and non-fiction books.

DB 105460 Taste: My Life Through Food

Written by Stanley Tucci. Actor known for his supporting roles, including Paul Child in Julie & Julia, reflects on his relationship with food throughout his life. Discusses growing up in an Italian American family, food served on film sets, and dealing with a form of oral cancer. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2021.

[Download DB 105460 from BARD.](#)

DB 49104 A Walk to Remember

Written by Nicholas Sparks. Fifty-seven-year-old Landon thinks back to 1958, the year that changed his life. Pious, bible-carrying Jamie Sullivan asks seventeen-year-old Landon to costar with her in the Christmas play written by her preacher father. As they spend time together, Landon is shocked to realize he's falling in love. Bestseller. 1999.

[Download DB 49104 from BARD.](#)

DB 122128 First Frost

Written by Craig Johnson. We return to find Walt and our familiar cast of characters from Abaroska County, Wyoming. This time, he is up against a sinister plot that could hurt the people closest to him and forever change the way he sees his beloved Wyoming.

[Download DB 122128 from BARD](#)

DB 119773 Three Shades of Blue: Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bill Evans and the Lost Empire of Cool

Written by James Kaplan. From the author of the definitive biography of Frank Sinatra, the story of how jazz arrived at the pinnacle of American culture in 1959, told through the journey of three towering artists-Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Bill Evans-who came together to create the most famous and bestselling jazz album of all time, Kind of Blue.

[Download DB 119773 from BARD](#)

DB 84056 As Close to Us as Breathing: a Novel

Written by Elizabeth Poliner. 1948. Sisters Ada, Vivie, and Bec meet every year at "Bagel Beach" in Connecticut for the summer. Ada and Vivie bring their children, while unmarried Bec is faced with deciding if she wants a family or to continue her affair with a married man. Tragedy strikes. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2016.

[Download DB 84056 from BARD](#)

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

Help NLS Test its New My Talking Books Alexa Skill

Did you know that NLS patrons with Amazon Alexa-enabled smart speakers can now enjoy talking books on BARD using voice commands? NLS is seeking patrons to take part in an open beta test of the new My Talking Books skill, a voice-activated app for Alexa smart speakers. In addition to being one of the first to get the My Talking Books skill, you'll be helping NLS identify and fix any remaining bugs before the skill is made widely available. If you're interested, you can get more information and register for the beta test at the [NLS My Talking Books Skill registration page](#).

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.

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

That All May eRead Program

NLS presents a monthly program called That All May *eRead* on Zoom. This program, scheduled monthly for the last Tuesday night of each month, focuses on using the NLS Braille eReaders. Each session begins with a brief demonstration of a feature or use case. The rest of the hour is spent answering patron questions about any aspect of the Zoomax or HumanWare Braille eReaders. Get program details and access recordings of previous programs at the [That All May eRead 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

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Mailing Address

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Upcoming CT LAB Holiday Closings

April 18, 2025 – Good Friday

May 26, 2025 – Memorial Day

June 19, 2025 – Juneteenth Day

July 4, 2025 – Independence Day

September 1, 2025 – Labor Day