



Department of Libraries
Special Services Unit

Newsletter

Winter 2014

iPhone / iPad / iPod app for BARD now out

NLS has released the iOS BARD app, BARD Mobile, which allows readers to download audio and braille books directly to Apple devices. Please be aware you must register for BARD, the NLS download service, before using the app. iPhone users should also know that downloading books can eat up a lot of the data quota you may have from your cell phone service provider; downloading books via WiFi is more reliable and does not impact your data quota. The app for Android devices has not yet been released.

VT State Library now has ZoomText

The Vermont State Library, located in the Pavilion building at 109 State Street in Montpelier, now has a public computer set up with ZoomText Magnifier/Reader software, a large print high contrast keyboard, document camera and headphones. The software can enlarge the computer

screen up to 36x, and can also read the screen aloud. Among the electronic resources now more accessible in the State Library as a result are *Westlaw*, the *Foundation Directory Online*, *Ancestry.com* (International Edition), and *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*. The document camera can be used to enlarge text from a book or other image and transmit it to the computer screen for viewing or for the screen reader to read aloud. It is also possible to record the screen reader reading as an audio file.

First locally recorded talking book completed!

We are pleased to announce that we have recorded our first locally recorded digital talking book. The book is *Invasion on the Mountain*, by Judith Edwards, book number **VTD 1**, the first of a historical fiction trilogy about the Civilian Conservation Corps on Mt. Ascutney in the 1930s. Although written for middle schoolers and only 90 minutes long, adults may also be interested. The book was recorded by volunteers Frederick Barrett and Monique Signorat, in space made available by the Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired. Recording of the other books in the trilogy is already underway. We have plans to record books by Jody Williams, Chris Graff, Howard Coffin, and Sydney Lea.

2014 VT Reads book *Wonder* available

The Vermont Humanities Council has chosen *Wonder*, by R. J. Palacio, as the 2014 Vermont Reads title. The book can be downloaded from BARD or borrowed from the Library under book number DB 74228. The book is suitable for adults and children from 5th grade up. Contact your local public library to see if it is sponsoring any VT Reads programs.

Nominate special postal carrier by April 15

Nominations are now being accepted for the Postal Carrier of the Year award co-sponsored by the Library and the Vermont Council of the Blind. If you have a postal carrier who goes above and beyond to serve you, tell us about it. We will accept written or emailed nominations, or you may call 1-800-479-1711 after 4:30pm on weekdays or any time on weekends and leave a detailed message under 3 minutes in length on our voice mail. The winning nomination must do a good job of explaining why the postal carrier is special. Deadline for nominations is April 15.

Selected titles from our collection

From book to the screen

The Butler: A Witness to History, by Wil Haygood.
DB 77491

Life of White House butler Eugene Allen who served 8 presidents.

A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs, and Dangerous Days at Sea, by Richard Phillips.

DB 77810

Merchant marine captain from Underhill, VT, captured by modern-day pirates.

History Decoded: The 10 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time, by Brad Meltzer. DB 77803

Tries to debunk sensational stories surrounding the fate of Confederate gold, the identity of skyjacker D.B. Cooper, UFOs at Roswell and Area 51, the assassination of JFK, and other historical mysteries.

Making Masterpiece: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! On PBS, by Rebecca Eaton. DB 77764

Executive producer reminisces about productions of which she has been a part.

Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison, by Piper Lerman. DB 77538

Upper-middle-class author relates her immersion into prison culture 10 years after committing the crimes that put her there.

Philomena: A Mother, Her Son, and a Fifty-Year Search, by Martin Sixsmith. DB 77914

Irish unwed mother forced to give her son up for adoption spends 50 years trying to find him.

Twelve Years a Slave, by Solomon Northrup.
DB 77891

Original 19th century memoir by free-born African American from New York.

The Wolf of Wall Street, by Jordan Belfort.
DB 78145

Autobiography of brokerage firm owner arrested for securities fraud and money laundering.

Disabilities

Behind Our Eyes: A Second Look: The Second Literary Anthology of Stories, Poems and Essays by Writers with Disabilities. DB 77772

Blinded by Sight: Seeing Race through the Eyes of the Blind, by Osagie K. Obasogie. DB 78044
Explores the way blind people are socialized to attach particular characteristics to racial differences.

Bullying and Students with Disabilities: Strategies and Techniques to Create a Safe Learning Environment for All, by Barry Edwards McNamara. DB 77771

Offers intervention techniques for parents and school staff, discusses school-wide programs, lists resources for students.

Job Search Handbook for People with Disabilities, by Daniel Ryan. DB 77534

Locating openings, preparing for interviews, writing resumes, using government programs, networking, and succeeding at work.

Other interesting non-fiction

American Mirror: The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell, by Deborah Solomon. DB 78042

Examines Rockwell's struggles with depression and the ways the disorder influenced his work.

Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin, by Jill Lepore. DB 77782

Ben Franklin's beloved youngest sister.

Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism, by Doris Kearns Goodwin. DB 77807

Knitting Yarns: Writers on Knitting. DB 78078

27 essays on knitting by noted authors. Includes 6 knitting patterns.

Miss Manners Minds Your Business, by Judith Martin. DB 77777

Uses humor to urge recognition of the difference between professional and social manners. Details steps to creating a work identity and tackling common office hazards such as job interviews, rude customers, business travel, irritating colleagues, and office parties.

When an Adult Child Breaks Your Heart: Coping with Mental Illness, Substance Abuse, and the Problems That Tear Families Apart, by Joel L. Young. DB 78064

Offers practical advice and coping strategies for parents dealing with adult children who are mentally ill, drug addicted, abusive, or incarcerated.

Newest DVDs with audio description

The following DVDs were donated to the Library by the Vermont Council of the Blind. Please note that you may need the assistance of a sighted person to turn on the audio description feature, which adds audio to describe non-verbal content.

Action/Thriller

Broken City DVD 378

The Call DVD 377

Dead Man Down DVD 376

A Good Day to Die Hard DVD 374

Jack Reacher DVD 383

Comedy

The Guilt Trip DVD 379

Identity Theft DVD 373

Drama

The Power of Few DVD 382

Horror

Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters DVD 381

Mama DVD 375

Fantasy/Adventure

Oz the Great and Powerful DVD 380

Book player battery not holding a charge?

The battery life of the NLS digital book player gradually reduces over time. If the battery on your player lasts less than 12 hours between charges and you need the player to be portable, send it back to us for replacement. Please include a note or call us first so we know what the problem is.

To extend the life of your battery, leave the player plugged in most of the time. Try not to leave it unused for long periods of time without having it plugged in. Be advised that use of flash drives runs the battery down faster than using cartridges. Of course, as with any electronics, it would be wise to unplug the player during thunderstorms and power outages.

Library Advisory Council members for 2014

Members of the Special Services Library Advisory Council for 2014 are: Michael Richman, South Burlington, Chair, VCB; Amy Olsen, Hyde Park, Vice Chair, libraries; Kim Brittenham, Montpelier, VCIL, physical conditions; Barbara Buchanan, Burlington, at large; Linda Goodspeed, Rutland, NFB; Linda Gustafson, Essex Junction, children; Dan Norris, Barre, VABVI; Paul Putnam, DBVI; Paula Stevens, Wilder, at large; Walter Taylor, South Royalton, veterans. If you would like to communicate with the Council, email Mike Richman, mike.richman@comcast.net , or call the Library.

Vermont Department of Libraries, Special Services Unit

1 -800-479-1711 or (802) 828-3273,

Monday-Friday, 7:45 am to 4:30 pm

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This newsletter is available in alternative formats upon request.



This program is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the Library Services and Technology Act.