



Special Services Unit Newsletter Spring 2015

iPhone / iPad / iPod App for BARD Now Available

Good news! 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 that to use the app you must first register for BARD, the NLS download service. iPhone users should also know that downloading books can eat up a lot of the data quota from your cell phone service provider; downloading books via Wi-Fi is more reliable and does not impact your data quota. The app for Android devices has not yet been released.

Last Annual Catalog from NLS

The 2013 *Digital Talking Books Plus* catalog is the last annual print catalog the National Library Service (NLS) of the Library of Congress will ship to readers. The bi-monthly *Talking Book Topics* catalog

will continue to be published in both large print and digital formats.

If you receive *Talking Book Topics* in large print, the publication is yours to keep. The order form is in the back of the magazine. If you receive it on digital cartridge, you will receive an order form that is mailed separately. The cartridge itself must be returned promptly, as is the case with all magazines on cartridge sent directly from NLS. Failure to return two cartridges will result in suspension of future magazine shipments.

Free Currency Readers Still Available

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) continues to offer a free currency reader to any legal resident of the United States who is unable to read regular print because of blindness or visual impairment. The currency reader, also called the iBill reader, assists individuals in identifying U.S. currency. All individuals interested in receiving a currency reader will need to submit an application directly to the BEP. Individuals who are registered with our Library need not have the BEP application certified and can simply check a box on the application indicating they are already a registered

Library patron. To request an application, call the BEP toll-free at 1-844-815-9388.

Five Locally Recorded Books Now in Circulation

We are pleased to announce that we now have five locally recorded digital books completed and in circulation. This allows readers access for the first time to these Vermont titles. They are:

Invasion on the Mountain: The Adventures of Will Ryan and the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933; Book One, by Judith Edwards. VTD1

Trouble on the Mountain: The Adventures of Will Ryan and the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1934-35; Book Two, by Judith Edwards. VTD2

At the Top of the Mountain: The Adventures of Will Ryan and the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1936-38; Book Three, by Judith Edwards. VTD3

This historical fiction trilogy by Vermont author Judith Edwards about the Civilian Conservation Corps on Mt. Ascutney in the 1930s was written for middle schoolers, but adult readers may also be interested.

My Name is Jody Williams: A Vermont Girl's Winding Path to the Nobel Peace Prize, by Jody Williams. VTD4

From her modest upbringing in Vermont to her selection as the tenth woman – and third American woman – to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, Jody Williams takes the reader through the ups and downs of her tumultuous and remarkable life.

Dateline Vermont: Covering and Uncovering the Newsworthy Stories that Shaped a State – and Influenced a Nation, by Chris Graff. VTD5

A veteran reporter speaks out about his more than 25 years of writing about the Green Mountain state and its remarkable transformation from the most reliably Republican state in the nation to a bastion of progressivism.

More New Titles from Our Collection:

Adult Fiction:

Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands, by Chris Bohjalian. DB 78965 (Vermont author)

Living in an igloo of ice and trash bags half a year after a cataclysmic nuclear disaster, Emily is convinced that she will be hated as the daughter of the drunken father who caused the meltdown.

All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr. DB 79182

When Paris is invaded by the Nazis, Marie-Laure LeBlanc's father evacuates her to St. Malo to stay with her great-uncle. Blind since the age of six, Marie-Laure must learn the town by the scale model her father has left. Bestseller.

Carnal Curiosity: A Stone Barrington Mystery, by Stuart Woods. DB 79312

Stone Barrington and Dino Bacchetti investigate the world of high-end security and fraud, where insider knowledge and access are limited to a privileged few, and the wealthy are made vulnerable by the very systems meant to keep them safe. Bestseller.

Mr. Mercedes, by Stephen King. DB 79570

Job-fair applicants are mowed down by a man in a stolen Mercedes – and eight die. Bestseller.

Lila, by Marilynne Robinson. DB 79899

Lila, from *Gilead* (DB 59561), finds herself on the porch of a quiet church in Gilead, Iowa. A drifter from a young age, she is disconcerted when she is taken in by, and eventually marries, the preacher, John Ames. Bestseller.

Three Can Keep a Secret; Proof Positive, by Archer Mayor. DB 80098 (Vermont author)

Two mysteries, written between 2013 and 2014, featuring Vermont Bureau of Investigation's Joe Gunther.

Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good, by Jan Karon. DB 80106

In retirement, Father Tim searches for something to occupy his time, while wife Cynthia continues with her career as a children's book author. Bestseller.

Family Furnishings: Selected Stories, 1995-2014, by Alice Munro. DB 80546

Twenty-four short stories from the Nobel Prize winner. Bestseller.

Adult Non-Fiction:

Hard Choices, by Hillary Rodham Clinton. DB 79036

Clinton's account of the crises, choices, and challenges she faced during her four years as secretary of state and how those experiences inform her vision of the future. Bestseller.

***A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power*, by Jimmy Carter. DB 79049**

Former U.S. president synthesizes reports of violence and discrimination against women across the world, with particular attention to restrictions and abuses based on religious principles.

Bestseller.

***No Place to Hide: Edward Snowden, the NSA, and the U.S. Surveillance State*, By Glenn Greenwald.**

DB 79369

Journalist and former lawyer Greenwald describes being contacted by Edward Snowden regarding top secret documents he obtained while working at the National Security Agency.

Bestseller.

***Think Like a Freak: The Authors of "Freakonomics" Offer to Retrain Your Brain*, by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. DB 79388**

The authors of *Freakonomics* (DB 60337) provide strategies for thinking outside of the box.

Bestseller.

***The Mockingbird Next Door: Life with Harper Lee*, by Marja Mills. DB 79569**

Journalist describes becoming friends with author Harper Lee and her sister, Alice, and eventually

moving in next door to them. Provides insights into Lee's reclusiveness and reluctance about writing another novel after the success of *To Kill a Mockingbird* (DB 77672). Bestseller.

The Romanov Sisters: The Lost Lives of the Daughters of Nicholas and Alexandra, by Helen Rappaport. DB 79756

Russian historian examines the lives of the daughters of Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia. Details the close family ties as well as the pressures of political upheaval on them. Bestseller.

The Possibility Dogs: What a Handful of "Unadoptables" Taught Me about Service, Hope, and Healing, by Susannah Charleson. DB 80097

Canine search-and-rescue team member describes training abandoned dogs to work with individuals who suffer from a variety of conditions, including PTSD and panic attacks.

Yes Please, by Amy Poehler. DB 80350

Emmy Award-winning star of television show *Parks and Recreation*, Poehler ruminates on what she has learned so far in her life. Bestseller.

Children's Books:

Memoirs of a Hamster, by Devin Scillian. DB 78669

Though Seymour, a pet hamster, thinks life is perfect inside his cage, Pearl, the family cat, talks Seymour into exploring the sunroom. But once he's out, Seymour misses his cage. Grades K-3.

The EARTH Book, by Todd Parr. DB 79690

Illustrates how children can help protect the Earth and make it a better place. Grades K-3.

Lulu's Mysterious Mission, by Judith Viorst. DB 79094

When Lulu's parents go on vacation, the formidable Ms. Sonia Sofia Solinsky comes to babysit. Lulu behaves as badly as possible to get her to leave. Grades 2-4.

Captain Awesome vs. Nacho Cheese Man, by Stan Kirby. DB 79494

When second-grader Eugene's favorite comic book goes missing, he blames his best friend, Charlie, even though he has no evidence. Grades 2-4.

Flutter: The Story of Four Sisters and One Incredible Journey, by Erin E. Moulton. DB 79488 (Vermont author)

Nine-year-old Maple and her older sister, Dawn, must work together to face treacherous terrain, wild animals, and poachers as they trek through Vermont's Green Mountains seeking a miracle for their prematurely born sister. Grades 3-6.

The End of Cassettes Is Near

With the successful transition to digital books and players the end of cassette books and players is near. The new digital talking book player provides better sound and improved usability for patrons. If you have a cassette book player you are no longer using, please return it to the Library. If you do not yet have a digital book player, please call the Library to request one.

Digital Talking Book Player DOs and DON'Ts

Here are a few helpful DOs and DON'Ts for prolonging the life of your digital book player:

DON'T leave your player UN-used for long periods of time without having it plugged IN.

DO leave your player plugged IN, if you can.

DON'T expect the battery to always recharge to the original 29+ hours it had when new (anything at or above 12 hours is considered acceptable).

DO call us for a replacement machine if your battery won't charge above one hour.

DON'T be surprised if the charging time drops dramatically from one time to the next, especially if you have been using a flash drive instead of a cartridge.

Upcoming Events

Please come visit our booth at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired's 2015 Technology Fair, April 15th, at the Elks Lodge in Rutland, and at the Living Well with MS Conference, May 9th, at the Stoweflake Conference Center in Stowe.

Library Advisory Council Members for 2015

Members of the Special Services Library Advisory Council for 2015 are: Michael Richman, South Burlington, Chair, Vermont Council of the Blind;

Amy Olsen, Hyde Park, Vice Chair, libraries; Barbara Buchanan, Burlington, Secretary, at large; Kim Brittenham, Montpelier, Vermont Center for Independent Living, physical disabilities; Linda Goodspeed, Rutland, National Federation of the Blind; Linda Gustafson, Essex Junction, children; Dan Norris, Barre, Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Paul Putnam, Barre, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Paula Stevens, Wilder, at large; Walter Taylor, South Royalton, veterans. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th at 10 a.m. at the Library and is open to the public. 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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