

# | ABLE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2019 |



## ABLE Library Virtual Bookclub Updates!

Our next virtual bookclub will take place on May 1, 2019 at 2pm.

We will be discussing “Sandcastle Girls” by Chris Bohjalian.

SYNOPSIS: When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Syria she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. The year is 1915 and she has volunteered to help deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian genocide. There Elizabeth becomes friendly with Armen, a young engineer who has lost his wife and daughter. When Armen leaves Aleppo for Egypt to join the British army, he begins to write Elizabeth letters, and comes to realize that he has fallen in love...

Our virtual bookclub is open to anyone who is interested. We hope you can join us!

Please contact Sara or Wendy to sign-up by phone or email:

1-800-479-1711 | [LIB.AbleLibrary@vermont.gov](mailto:LIB.AbleLibrary@vermont.gov)



## Meet Our New ABLE Internist!

Sarah Potok, MFA is the new ABLE Library Internist. In addition to helping us process books and deliver programming, Sarah will also be writing a regular article on ability issues of interest to librarians, families, caregivers and service providers. Her article “Thank You for My Gratitude” is included in this issue of the newsletter.

ABLE is thrilled that she and her dog Zelda joined us in December! Be sure to drop by our table at the upcoming Technology Fair to say “hello” to both Sarah & Zelda.



## “Thank You for My Gratitude” by Sarah Potok

Services exist for people like me, whether blind or otherly abled, that don't require thanks as part of the equation. We have government agencies, benevolent institutions, and the ADA laws. We have talking books and service dogs and assistive technology, often at little to no extra cost to us. These services for accessibility help to level out the playing field, making our lives a little more possible, a little more normal.

In exchange for these services, expressing gratitude feels like a choice rather than an expectation, much like being grateful for legs that work or eyes that see. Services for those of us deemed disabled have been hard-won and a long time coming. It is a sort of compensation for luck-of-the-draw circumstances not of our choosing.

The difference between being thankful and being grateful might seem so subtle as to be negligible. When we say thanks, it is for something we receive. When we are grateful, it is for something we already have. This is the difference between asking for a favor and having the right to accessibility that others have.

Some of us need to rely on help with driving, shopping, filling out forms, and so many other necessary tasks required to live in this world. Sometimes all we can do is say thank you. And we really mean it. However, being constantly on the receiving end can push us toward that slippery slope of feeling helpless, a nose-against-the-glass awareness of our encroaching dependence.

Services and technology such as the NLS and the talking book have not been around forever. We have come a long way in having a library like ABLE as a resource. Braille has only been around since the early 1800s and early forms of book recordings since the mid 1900s. Historically, we have relied on the kindness of others.

The Seeing Eye, where my guide dog is from, believes that although the approximate cost of a working guide dog is \$60,000, the cost to us will be \$100 regardless of financial ability. We can pay a dollar a month, fifty cents a month, one cent a month, or all of it at once. This payment, a minute fraction of the actual cost of a guide dog team, transfers the rights of ownership to us without it feeling like a handout.

I believe in thanks. I say it all the time. Sometimes it feels like that's all I say. So when a service like ABLE Library comes along, I am grateful to know the wonderful and knowledgeable librarians and to listen to the terrific recordings. I feel oh so human and normal and whole having access to the privilege of reading without my hand out for a favor.



## **Freshly Served Titles @ ABLE:**

### **Large Print Collection**

LP092965 "Kingdom of the Blind" by Louise Penny

LP011749 "Bury the Lead" by Archer Mayor

LP013989 "Talking Across the Divide: How to Communicate with People You Disagree with and Maybe Even Change the World" by Justin Lee

LP013990 "The Terminal List" by Jack Carr

### **Digital Book Collection**

DB092627 "Becoming" by Michelle Obama

DB085708 "The European Union: A Very Short Introduction" by Pinder & Usherwood

DB091314 "Sharpshooter: A Byrnes Family Ranch" by Dusty Richards

DB088872 "A Dog Called Hope: A Wounded Warrior and the Service Dog Who Saved Him" by Jason Morgan and Damien Lewis

DB092245 "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

DB90188 "Educated: A Memoir" by Tara Westover

### **Local Recording Program**

VTD00009 "An Independent Man: Adventures of a Public Servant" by James M. Jeffords

VTD00017 "The Vermont Way: A Republican Governor Leads America's Most Liberal State" by Jim Douglas

VTD00018 "The Essential Bernie Sanders and His Vision for America" by Jonathan Tasini



# NOTES FROM MISSION CONTROL

- We are always happy to hear from you! Please remember that you are calling an active library environment and it isn't always possible for us to answer every phone call. Please be sure to leave a voice message and we'll get back to you within 24 hours.
- The ABLE Library is a proud co-sponsor of the "Memorable Times Café" with local partner, the Central Vermont Council on Aging. The Café meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 60 Washington Street in Barre from 1:30-3:00pm.
- Wendy attended a two-day training in late March at the Perkins School with Chris Mundy from MSCE to help enhance our Local Recoring Program.
- ABLE Library Director Vincent Livoti is attending the NLS Regional Conference in April, where he will moderate a think-tank session on diveristy issues with Nefertiti Matos of the New York Public Library.
- For digital book returns, please make sure your cartridge is placed properly in the container before closing. And please remember to flip the label for a quick return!
- ABLE Director Vincent Livoti will present information about the ABLE Library to K-12 Educators in Vermont at the Dynamic Landscapes Conference.

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## ABLE LIBRARY @ The Vermont Department of Libraries

1-800-479-1711

Email: [LIB.AbleLibrary@vermont.gov](mailto:LIB.AbleLibrary@vermont.gov)

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Online catalog: [webopac.klas.com/vtssu](http://webopac.klas.com/vtssu)



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