



News from the ABLÉ Library

Winter 2022

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

My name is Karen Gravlin, and I am honored to be the new Director of the ABLÉ Library and Library Consultant for Inclusive Services at the Vermont Department of Libraries. Having worked in the library profession for the last nine years, including a brief time at a subregional library for the Talking Books Library in Florida, I am very aware of the importance of the ABLÉ Library and the vital service it provides to patrons across the state of Vermont. I started my position in July 2021, and have had the pleasure of working with staff, patrons, and the ABLÉ advisory board. It is my goal to continue the work of the ABLÉ Library, while ensuring our services are updated and current to meet the needs of our patrons.

We have some exciting plans for the new year, so please read on to find out what the ABLÉ Library is doing and what we have planned for the future! I am looking forward to meeting more of you throughout the year and hearing about ways we can improve and strengthen our services to Vermonters. Happy New Year!



PROGRAMS

ABLE Book Club

Join us for our ABLE Book Club that meets every other month. Our next meeting will be on January 19, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. We will be discussing the Vermont Reads 2021 book from the Vermont Humanities Council. To participate, please email lib.ablelibrary@vermont.gov or call 802-636-0020. We meet online via Microsoft Teams, with an option to call in.

Book information: **We Contain Multitudes** by Sarah Henstra, DB095548

As pen pals for a high school English assignment, poetry-loving sophomore Jonathan and popular athlete senior Adam explore their growing relationship through a series of letters. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2019.

Memorable Times Café

The ABLE Library partners with the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) to provide Memorable Times Café. This group meets online on the first Wednesday of every month and is meant for people with memory loss and their care partners to share stories, memories, music, and community. Please contact Barb Asen at CVCOA for more information or to register at basen@cvcoa.org or 802-476-2681.

Summer Reading Program

We are excited to share that the ABLE Library will be hosting a Summer Reading Program this year for children, ages birth to 18. We will send out more information as we get closer to the summer, so stay tuned!



UPDATES

New Website

The ABLE Library will be getting a new website in the next few months, and we are working with a web design contractor to ensure that it meets the highest level of accessibility standards. Our goal is to make it easier to navigate and find the information our patrons and partners need. We are looking forward to sharing the new website with you and will make sure to let you know when it is available.

New National Library Service Director

We are pleased to announce that Vermont's very own State Librarian, Jason Broughton, has been selected as the new Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) at the Library of Congress.

Prior to joining NLS, Mr. Broughton was the first African American to serve as Vermont State Librarian. In this role, he engaged in strategic planning for the Department of Libraries and established a long-term vision for the State Library. Previously, Mr. Broughton held numerous positions at libraries in South Carolina and Georgia.

Mr. Broughton earned his M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina, a M.S. in Public Administration from the University of South Florida, and a bachelor's degree in Biology from Florida A&M University. Please join us in welcoming Jason Broughton to NLS!

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Did you know that the Vermont Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) is the designated state unit to provide vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to eligible Vermonters who are blind or visually impaired? DBVI's mission is to support the effort of Vermonters who are blind or visually impaired to achieve or sustain their economic independence, self reliance, and social integration to a level consistent with their interests, abilities, and informed choices. Call their central office toll free at 1-888-405-5005 or email them at ahs.daildbviinfo@vermont.gov.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Audie Awards 2021

The Audie Awards, also known as “the Oscars of the audiobook industry,” are awarded each year to the best titles in commercial audio publishing in 25 categories. For a compelling listening experience, try one of the 2021 winners available from NLS:

Audiobook of the year: **Piranesi** by Susanna Clarke, DB100700

Autobiography/Memoir & Best Male Narrator:

The Autobiography of Malcom X: As Told to Alex Haley by Malcom X and Alex Haley, DB101533

Best Female Narrator & Fantasy: **The City We Became** by N.K. Jemisin, DB98901

Faith-Based Fiction & Non-Fiction: **Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire** by Jen Hatmaker, DB99836

Fiction: **Such a Fun Age** by Kiley Reid, DB97929

History/Biography: **His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope** by Jon Meacham, DB101989

Humor: **A Very Punchable Face** by Colin Jost, DB99679

Literary Fiction/Classics: **The Death of Vivek Oji** by Akwaeke Emezi, DB100235

Multi-Voiced Performance and Young Adult: **Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo, DB99823

Mystery: **Fair Warning** by Michael Connelly, DB99807

Narration by the Author: **More Myself** by Alicia Keys, DB98906

Nonfiction: **Fire in Paradise** by Alastair Gee and Dani Anguiano, DB100165

Science Fiction: **The Deep** by Rivers Solomon, with Daveed Diggs, William Huston, and Jonathan Snipes, DB98191

Thriller/Suspense: **When No One Is Watching** by Alyssa Cole, DB100647

Young Listeners (Up to Age 8): **The Overground Railroad** by Lesa Cline Ransome, DB102767

The full list, including finalists and non-accessible winners, is available at <https://www.audiopub.org/winners/2021-audies>. Many of the finalists are also available in the NLS collection.

What's New in Large Print

Crossroads by Jonathan Franzen, LP17730

December 23, 1971, Chicago. Each member of the Hildebrandt family seeks a freedom that the others threaten to complicate. Russ Hildebrandt, the associate church pastor and father of three, is on the brink of breaking free of a joyless marriage unless his wife beats him to it.

The Arbornaut: A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us by Meg Lowman, LP104556

Biologist presents her experiences researching forests in Australia, the United States, Scotland, Malaysia, India, and Ethiopia. Discusses the work she does as a field researcher, the role of trees and forests in combatting climate change, and the different types of arboreal ecosystems.

Voice from the Pandemic by Eli Saslow, LP13922

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Washington Post* reporter, a powerful and cathartic portrait of a country grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic—from feeling afraid and overwhelmed to extraordinary resilient—told through voices of people from all across America.

Velvet Was the Night by Silvia Moreno-Garcia, LP104794

Mexico City, 1971. Maite is a secretary who lives for the next issue of *Secret Romance*. She envies the apparent intrigue and romance of her next-door neighbor Leonora. But when Leonora disappears, Maite searches for her. Maite's path crosses with criminal Elvis, who is also hunting Leonora.

Newsletter Versions

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https://libraries.vermont.gov/able_library

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News from the ABLE Library is written and edited by staff of the ABLE Library at the Vermont Department of Libraries. It is available in large print, through email, and audio file upon request, or through our website.

Library Service Hours: 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday - Friday

Visits are by appointment only. Please call or email to schedule a visit.

Website: https://libraries.vermont.gov/able_library

Email: lib.ablelibrary@vermont.gov

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