



News from the ABLE Library

Vol. 3 Issue 1

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

With winter almost behind us, it's time to start thinking about spring, more sun, and warmer days ahead. I'm looking forward to being able to sit outside while I read a good book. If you're having similar thoughts, feel free to reach out and get some book recommendations from our ABLE Library reader advisors, Sara and Wendy!

Many people like to use the warmer weather to get some spring cleaning done. If you are spring cleaning and come across a cartridge from the library, send it back in the mail to us. We can take it off your account and send some new books your way. Now might also be a good time to take a look at your digital player, if you have one. Do all of the buttons work? Does the battery hold a charge? If you're having any issues with your digital player, let us know so that we can send you a new one. We work with volunteers around the country who fix these devices, so there's no need to hang onto it if it's not working properly.

As always, thank you for being an ABLE Library patron. We are always happy to hear from patrons and help folks find their next favorite book!

PROGRAMS

ABLE Book Club

Join us for our [ABLE Book Club](#) that meets every other month on the third Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

The next three meetings are:

- March 20: **The Feather Thief (DB90801)** by Kirk W. Johnson
Chronicle of the 2009 theft of 299 rare bird skins from a natural history museum by a musician for the purpose of supporting his hobby: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. This book discusses the underground world of feather enthusiasts, the history of the specimens, the investigation of the crime, and more.
- May 15: **Sea of Tranquility (DB107705)** by Emily St. John Mandel
At scattered points across time and space, overlapping occurrences of violin music and a mysterious forest emerge. They are experienced by a young man in the Canadian wilderness, a famous writer visiting Earth from a moon colony, and a detective hired to investigate an anomaly in time.
- July 17: **Small Mercies (DB114456)** by Dennis Lehane
In the summer of 1974, a heatwave blankets Boston and Mary Pat Fennessy is trying to stay one step ahead of the bill collectors. Mary Pat has lived her entire life in the housing projects of "Southie." One night, Mary Pat's teenage daughter Jules stays out late and doesn't come home. That same evening, a young Black man is found dead, struck by a subway train under mysterious circumstances.

BARD Basics

BARD is the Braille and Audio Reading Download service provided by NLS so that patrons can download books directly to their own devices. Join ABLE Library staff for this one-hour program to hear an overview of how to use BARD and to ask your questions. This program will be on Monday, April 29, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

Memorable Times Café

Join the Central Vermont Council on Aging and the ABLE Library on the first Wednesday of every month from 10:30 to 11:30 am for Memorable Times Online. This program sparks pleasant memories from the 1950's and 1960's to get participants talking and having fun. This dementia-friendly activity is free and warmly welcomes new participants. Please contact Barb Asen for more information or to register: basen@cvcoa.org or 802-476-2681.

UPDATES

NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) Limit

Beginning last month, National Library Service patrons will be allowed to download no more than 250 books and magazines from BARD in any rolling thirty-day period. This includes both audio and braille titles. It does not matter which platform or combination of platforms are used to download the books and magazines. The authorization limit is calculated by adding up the number of “unique titles” downloaded. This means you can download the same title on additional devices in the same thirty-day period without that download counting against the authorization limit. Please contact the ABLE Library if you have any questions about this.

Solar Eclipse 2024 and VABVI

The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired plans to hold eclipse events utilizing the [LightSound devices](#) created by a team at Harvard University. The device converts light into data and data into sound. The sound emitted by the device changes as the light input changes, and in that way the eclipse becomes accessible to someone with impaired vision. While details have yet to be finalized, VABVI plans to host eclipse events at four different locations along the path of totality: Burlington, Montpelier, and St. Johnsbury. The fourth location is to be determined. For more information, visit vabvi.org/solar-eclipse-2024-in-vermont.

NFB BELL Academy

The National Federation of the Blind Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning Academy empowers blind and low-vision children by developing their literacy, nonvisual and cane skills. This helps them live the lives they want academically, vocationally, and otherwise. NFB BELL Academy will be offered in-person across the country throughout the summer of 2024. For additional information and a list of participating programs, visit nfb.org/bell.

Summer Reading Program

Summer is right around the corner, and that means summer reading! The National Library Service will be offering virtual programs throughout the summer, including storytimes, author talks, and more. Check the ABLIE website as summer gets closer for more information: able.vermont.gov.

BARD Mobile iOS version 2.2.2 Release

NLS has released BARD Mobile iOS version 2.2.2 to the App Store. The app can now be operated by voice commands for playback and navigation, including stopping and resuming playback, fast-forwarding and rewinding by various intervals, and setting a sleep timer or a bookmark. Users can add Siri shortcuts in the app's settings. The international language search has been updated so that users can set up to four languages in the app's settings and then filter search results by selecting a preferred language. NLS has also boosted color contrast between selected and unselected search categories. This update enhances visibility with Smart Invert, Classic Invert, and Dark Mode on.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

The Vermont Family Network empowers and supports all Vermont children, youth, and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. They do this by giving a strong start, lifting family voices, and advancing inclusive communities. Their vision is that all Vermont children and youth reach their full potential. The values which guide their work are: family-centered, respect, collaboration, making a difference, and accessibility. To learn more, visit vermontfamilynetwork.org or call 802-876-5315.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

For more book recommendations, including for children and teens, visit able.vermont.gov/book-club.

Adult Fiction: Mystery and Detective

- *Next in Line* by Jeffrey Archer (DB112988)
- *Twisted Innocence* by Terri Blackstock (DB113588)
- *Guilty Not Guilty* by Felix Francis (DB110071)
- *Good Dog, Bad Cop* by David Rosenfelt (DB113030)
- *Paladin* by Sarah Woodbury (DB113584)

Adult Fiction: Historical Fiction

- *The War Librarian* by Addison Armstrong (DB115070)
- *Hang the Moon* by Jeannette Walls (DB114958)
- *The London Séance Society* by Sarah Penner (DB113571)
- *Ithaca* by Claire North (DB110031)
- *Homecoming: A Novel* by Kate Morton (DB113914)

Adult Fiction: Fantasy

- *The Awakening* by Amanda Stevens (DB114319)
- *The Future King* by Robyn Schneider (DB114765)
- *Be the Serpent* by Seanan McGuire (DB112579)
- *When the Angels Left the Old Country* by Sacha Lamb (DB112723)
- *The Curator* by Owen King (DB114936)

Adult Fiction - Romance

- *Identity: A Novel* by Nora Roberts (DB114782)
- *Anne of Manhattan: A Novel* by Brina Starler (DB114303)
- *A Wish for Winter* by Viola Shipman (DB114995)
- *This Bird Has Flown: A Novel* by Susanna Hoffs (DB115330)
- *Meet Me at the Lake* by Carley Fortune (DB114298)

Adult Nonfiction

- *Don't Ask the Blind Guy for Directions: A 30,000-Mile Journey for Love, Confidence, and a Sense of Belonging* by John Samuel (DB113637)
- *The Half Known Life: In Search of Paradise* by Pico Iyer (DB114178)
- *A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan (DB114864)
- *The Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee Book* by Jerry Seinfeld (DB111557)
- *LeBron* by Jeff Benedict (DB114295)

Children's Books

- *Good Dogs on a Bad Day* by David Sidorov and Rachel (DB114763)
- *A Spoonful of Time* by Flora Ahn (DB115263)
- *Amelia Gray Is Almost Okay* by Jessica Brody (DB114888)
- *Crazy in Poughkeepsie* by Daniel Manus Pinkwater (DB114021)
- *Ben Yokoyama and the Cookies of Chaos* by Matthew Swanson (DB114769)

What's New in Large Print

- *The Collector* by Daniel Silva (LP200481)
- *The Country of the Blind: A Memoir at the End of Sight* by Andrew Leland (LP200482)
- *Crook Manifesto: A Novel* by Colson Whitehead (LP200483)
- *Dead Man's Wake: A Novel* by Paul Doiron (LP200484)
- *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict (LP200485)
- *Lady Tan's Circle of Women: A Novel* by Lisa See (LP200487)
- *Near Miss* by Stuart Woods (LP200490)
- *Rogue Justice: A Thriller* by Stacey Abrams (LP200496)
- *Tom Lake: A Novel* by Ann Patchett (LP200498)



News from the ABLÉ Library is written and edited by staff of the ABLÉ 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: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday

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

Website: <https://able.vermont.gov>

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