

# Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB) Newsletter

May/June 2023

## CTLAB News

### Keeping Your Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) Account Active

If you use the BARD website, BARD Express, or BARD Mobile, please remember that you must download at least one book or magazine every six months to keep your account active. Please contact Paula McLean at (860) 704-2216 if you need assistance re-activating your BARD account or have any questions about your BARD account.

### Upcoming CTLAB Book Club Meeting

The next CTLAB book club will meet virtually on July 19, 2023, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The title that we are reading for July is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. This title is available as a Talking Book on cartridge and from BARD as DB 105197.

Please register for the book club by calling Paula McLean at (860) 704-2216 or (800) 842-4516. Participants will receive the Zoom meeting link or dial in phone number for the book club meeting following registration.

# **National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) Updates**

## **NLS Calendars**

NLS will soon have free braille calendars in both wall-sized and pocket-sized formats available for patrons. We expect the first calendars to be available in July. In future years, calendars will be released by January. Calendars will be mailed directly to patrons.

Requests for calendars will be treated as a subscription so that, going forward, subscribed patrons will automatically be sent calendars each year. Patrons interested in a wall-sized or pocket-sized braille calendar should contact their CTLAB Reader's Advisor at (860) 704-2220 or (800) 842-4516 to make their request.

## **Book and Magazine Production Delays**

NLS is working to address book and magazine production delays that impact the timely upload of materials to BARD and the physical distribution of materials to patrons. Delays have been caused by ongoing problems with the new production and inventory control system that NLS began using last year.

Producers are diligently working through the resulting backlog, with priority being given to new books added to the collection and bestsellers. We apologize for the impact these production delays are having on patrons, and assure you that NLS is working with all parties to reduce the backlog as quickly as possible.

## Upcoming NLS Programs

### Get to Know the Many Faces of BARD

NLS staff members offer tips, answer questions, and demonstrate new features of BARD, the BARD Mobile app, and BARD Express each month during **The Many Faces of BARD**. This online event is open to all patrons and is held at 7 p.m. eastern time on the second Thursday of every month. Get details on upcoming sessions, login information, and recordings of previous programs at the [Many Faces of BARD web page](#).

### NLS Summer Reading Events

This summer, NLS is planning a series of virtual author talks. These events will run late June through August and are designed to appeal to school-aged children through adult ages. This list of guests includes *New York Times*–bestselling authors as well as winners of Amazon’s Best Book of the Year, American Library Association’s (ALA) Best Fiction for Young Adults, the Newberry medal, Pura Belpré Author Honor, and ALA Schneider Family Book Award Young Children's Honor Book. Each of the authors participating have multiple books in the NLS collection in audio and braille.

CTLAB will email patrons additional information about the events, including author names, event dates, and registration information once NLS has finalized planning.

# **Connect with CTLAB**

## **CTLAB Contact Information**

**Phone:** (860) 704-2220 or (800) 842-4516

**Email:** [csl.AccessibleBooks@ct.gov](mailto:csl.AccessibleBooks@ct.gov)

**Mailing Address:** 786 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457

## **Upcoming CTLAB Holiday Closings**

Monday, May 29, 2023 – Memorial Day

Monday, June 19, 2023 – Juneteenth Day

Tuesday, July 4, 2023 – Independence Day

Monday, September 4, 2023 – Labor Day

Monday, October 9, 2023 – Columbus Day

Friday, November 10, 2023 – Veterans Day

Thursday, November 23, 2023 – Thanksgiving Day

Monday, December 25, 2023 – Christmas Day

Monday, January 1, 2024 – New Year's Day