

Great Lakes Talking Books Newsletter Summer 2021

Dear Readers,

I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and the smell of lilacs in the air. As business returns to normal, our building will likely open soon. In the meantime, if you need to visit, please call or email me to set up an appointment. 906-228-7697, ext. 0

In recent news, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) has made it easier for folks with reading disabilities, such as dyslexia, to access our services. I'll share more details about the NLS update along with news about our new online application, the local book club picks for 2021, local recording updates, local adaptive technology resources, book suggestions, how to social network with the Lansing Braille Talking Book Library, and more NLS news.

Are you looking for a good book to read? Feel free to call, leave a voicemail, email, or even write a letter including details about the books you want to read using titles, subjects, authors, or ideas. I've included a list of books requested by your fellow patrons in this newsletter that might help you find something new to read.

BARD users, if you have troubles searching for materials using the app, I can help by adding books, series, and magazines to your wish list, making it easier for you to download and get reading.

Thank you, Tonia Bickford, Reader Advisor

tb@greatlaketalkingbooks.org, 906-228-7697, ext. 0

NLS eligibility update

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) has made it easier for folks with reading disabilities to join Great Lakes Talking Books. Until recently, a doctor of medicine or osteopathy was required to certify reading disabilities but now the NLS allows for reading specialists, educators, librarians, and school psychologists to certify the application instead.

Who is eligible for our services?

Great Lakes Talking Books serves patrons of all ages who reside in the U.P. and Alpena and Crawford County in the Lower Peninsula. Our service is available at no charge for folks who are blind, have a visual impairment, have a reading disability, or have a physical disability that makes it hard for them to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes as needed to read a print book.

Certifying authorities can submit applications online!

Certifying authorities can submit applications online at greatlaketalkingbooks.org. Certifying authorities include doctors, ophthalmologists, optometrists, psychologists, registered nurses, therapists, or professional staff at hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (such as an educator, social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian).

The Women of the Copper Country is a Great Michigan Read!

Residents throughout Michigan are invited to join in reading and discussing DB 96426 “The Women of the Copper Country,” Mary Doria Russell’s riveting account of 25-year-old Annie Clements as she stood up for the miners and their families during the 1913 copper strike. The book is Michigan Humanities’ choice for the 2021-2022 Great Michigan Read.



2021 Two Books, Two Communities selections

The Two Books, Two Communities program is a partnership of Northern Michigan University and Marquette/Alger Counties. Last year, 25 patrons participated in the Two Books, Two Communities book club by reading “Women of the Copper Country”. If you would like to participate in the community book club, give me a call. The books chosen for 2021 are:

- DB 83648 - Fried Walleye & Cherry Pie: Midwestern Writers on Food, edited by Peggy Wolff. Thirty essays on the pleasures of food and eating in the Midwest. Includes Peggy Wolff on fish boils, Elizabeth Berg on meatloaf, Jacquelyn Mitchard on corn, Peter Sagal on pâté, Anne Dimock on rhubarb, Lorna Landvik on diets, and Sue Hubbell on pie.
- Teacher/Pizza Guy, by Jeff Kass - A 2021 Michigan Notable Book Award Winner. A collection of poems of the author’s life experiences while working three jobs in Ann Arbor, Michigan. (Unfortunately, this book is not available in audio format to our patrons but it is available in eBook/Kindle format through your local library on Libby.)

Victoria E. Wolf Recording Booth

In 2019, Great Lakes Talking Books purchased a recording booth using funds donated by the Victoria E. Wolf estate with the goal to record books written by local authors and/or about the Upper Peninsula. The booth has been installed in the Peter White Public Library and will be available for public use in 2021. Equipment and furnishings were funded by the Jim Armstrong Memorial and Eunice Vandecaveye.

Local recording news

Available now:

- DBC16187 - A Love Affair with the U.P. by Cully Gage, narrated by Dan Junttila

Available soon:

- The Last Northwoods Reader: Book 4, by Cully Gage, narrated by Mark Hamari.

In progress:

- Laughing Whitefish, by Robert Traver (John D. Voelker), narrated by Mark Hamari.
- Northwoods Reader: Volume One: Northern Wit & Wisdom, by Cully Gage, narrated by Mark Hamari.
- Copper Empire: A Novel about the Copper Country Labor Strike in 1913, by Donna Searight Simons, narrated by Kelsey Boldt.

About our narrators:

Marquette native Mark Hamari co-owns Marquette Wallpaper & Paint with his brother Darryl. He is a member of several local bands including The Union Suits and the Marquette Rockestra. He lives in

town with his wife T. and their dog Taika. He hopes people enjoy listening to the books as much as he enjoys narrating them.

Kelsey Boldt is the librarian at the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library. Naturally, she enjoys reading in her spare time, but also loves writing, filmmaking, and the outdoors.

Peter White Public Library – Assistive Technology

The Peter White Public Library in Marquette has two assistive technology stations available to the public. Call 906-228-9510 for more information.

Assistive Technology Station with all the standard software available on the other public stations plus a

- 25” monitor,
- high contrast keyboard,
- motorized height-adjustable desk,
- NVDA screen reader software, and
- Microsoft Window’s zoom feature.

MagniSight Explorer CCTV - Do you have paperwork that you can't read due to low vision? Stop by the library to use the magnifier to display your magnified document on a computer monitor.

90th Anniversary of NLS!

In 1931, thirteen years after the end of World War I, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled was born in the midst of the Great Depression. In the same year that Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig led the major leagues with 46 home runs, and Al Capone was sent to prison, President Hoover signed the Pratt-Smoot Act, which established a national library program

administered by the Library of Congress—what is known today as NLS. Go to <https://www.loc.gov/nls/90th-anniversary/> for more information about the anniversary.

What is BARD?

BARD stands for Braille and Audio Reading Download. Patrons download and listen to books and magazines using the BARD Mobile app. To use BARD, you need an email address, a personal mobile device (iPhone, Android, iPad, or Kindle Fire), and Wi-Fi Internet or cellular access. Braille books and magazines (using a refreshable braille display) are also available through BARD. If you want to try BARD, give me a call.



NLS music instructional materials and scores

Our patrons may access the NLS collection of braille, large-print, and recorded instructional materials about music and musicians. Please note that music recordings solely for listening pleasure are not included in this service. To participate, please contact the NLS Music Section directly either via phone (1-800-424-8567, ext. 2) or via email (nlsm@loc.gov).

Follow the Michigan Braille Talking Book Library on Facebook

Social network with our regional library in Lansing at

<https://m.facebook.com/MichiganBTBL/>

Book recommendations from your fellow patrons:

DBC06271 – The Indigo Girl, by Natasha Boyd. In 1739, 16-year-old Eliza Lucas is left in charge of her family's three plantations. To save the family business and land, Eliza embarks on the process of making indigo dye coveted by the French.

DB 101551 - Crooked Hallelujah, by Kelli Jo Ford. The collection of interconnected short stories follows the path of four generations of Cherokee women. Unrated.

DB 96402 - The Grammarians, by Cathleen Schine. Identical twins are obsessed with words. As toddlers, they speak in a secret "twin" language. As adults in 1980s Manhattan, their shared love begins to tear them apart until their feud reaches its apex in a war over the family-heirloom dictionary. Unrated.

DB 87298 - Universal Harvester: a Novel, by John Darnielle. In the late 1990s, Jeremy works at the video store in a small town in Iowa. When customers begin to complain that the tapes they rent have creepy footage spliced in, Jeremy searches for the source. Some strong language.

DB 87039 - Drive time French. Beginner level: a complete course from the language experts. Simplified program to learn the basics of French vocabulary, grammar, conversation, and culture.

DB 102149 - This Tender Land, by William Kent Krueger. Odie, his older brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and little Emmy escape from the Lincoln School and the harsh superintendent. They use a canoe to travel down the Mississippi River, intent on finding a new place for themselves, and cross paths with other drifters. Violence and some strong language.

Great Lakes Talking Books
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**Free Matter
For Blind or
Handicapped**