

It's time to **DOWNLOAD** our Summer Issue!

Browse the **Table of Contents!**

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CML News

Over the years a dedicated cast of characters have given us their time, talents, and voices to make CML the unique audio experience you have come to expect and enjoy: our posse of volunteers. These folks show up for biweekly reading slots, sit in a quiet room (the former office of LuEsther T. Mertz, our benefactress), and record (on cassette or digital recorder) the various pieces we three editors think *might* make it into an issue. These generous souls give us the first listening experience of a piece and are essential to us in evaluating quality, flow, timing, and feel. Let's meet them:

Woody is our distinguished elder, a professional actor and radio announcer, whose expert reading skills and golden-tenor voice add gravitas and depth to shortlisted pieces. (He is also the handsome gentleman pictured in the banner of our website!)

Wendy is a local businesswoman who takes one hour out of a busy workday to read for us. She recently read the short story "[Owl,](#)" by [Emily Ruskovich](#), so beautifully that it convinced us we had to use it (and it's in this issue).

Karen is a recently retired nurse practitioner with the energy and enthusiasm of two people! Her upbeat personality, keen intelligence, and proficiency in several languages keep challenging articles from becoming plodding and dry.

In recent months, a flurry of volunteer interest has added Mike, Suzanne, and Jane. **Mike** travels from afar (the next county over) to lend his nice-guy, curious-about-the-world, great-sense-of-humor perspective to CML. **Suzanne**, a recently-retired (after 35 years) public librarian, serves with unflagging energy and perfection. **Jane**, our newest reader, who waited decades to fulfill her teenage dream of reading for others, adds genuine joy to the words we put before her.

Clearly, ours is an embarrassment of riches. We thank these dedicated people and the *many* others who, over the years, found us, auditioned, mastered our recording technology, changed schedules, suffered unpronounceable words and long reading sessions, all to volunteer on behalf of you, our listeners. They helped make CML great. Bravo!

Highlights

Summer reading is sometimes broken into two camps: totally pleasurable and vacation-minded vs. substantive catch-up on the world at large. At CML you don't have to take sides. In typical fashion, this issue takes you to the country with **Maxine Kumin** and her menagerie ("The Making of Pobiz Farm") and to Timbuktu, with its treasuries of ancient manuscripts ("Bonfire of the Humanities" by **Patrick Symmes**). The lazy days of summer are perfect for reminiscing with **Rick Bragg** about his dog and his days of singing ("Pretty Girl" and "All-Night Gospel"), or for sitting with **Paul Zimmer** as he recounts never-before-revealed facts from his stint as an atomic veteran ("Secret Information").

Whatever the weather, however diverse your interests, no matter how much time you have to spare, CML always offers something unforgettable.

Top Picks

We editors have a question: What is the fate of the youth in the story "Where the Map Ends" by **Ron Rash**? We've been kicking it around since March, when we first read it. It's not a neatly wrapped ending and we have lots of thoughts on it, so if you'd care to [weigh in?](#)

And Special Thanks To ...

Sue H. from Dallas Center, IA

"You have such a variety of good stories that I would never be able to hear anywhere else. I like all of them and usually listen to them two or three times. I just wanted to let you know how much I really appreciate your service. Thank you."

A Special Request

Because we believe as you do that Choice Magazine Listening is unique, intelligent, entertaining, thoughtful, and mind-opening, might there be someone you know who would also appreciate our free anthology? Maybe an acquaintance at your church, synagogue, or civic group challenged by low vision, Parkinson's, Macular Degeneration, or other physical setback? We are always trying to spread the word about CML. Please let them know our secret. We'd love it if they got in touch.