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## **CML News**

During the past several months our editors have been speaking with regional and sub-regional branches of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) across the country, to find out what's new, what's popular, where services are heading, how their systems are developing, and ultimately, how CML can collaborate with them more effectively.

This little exercise in outreach has made it very clear to us that the talking-book libraries of the NLS are staffed by friendly, enthusiastic, innovative, caring, and patient individuals, some of whom we'd like to give special mention to here.

The Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library in New York City offers a wide range of informative outreach programs and regular educational group meetings for the blind. From an interactive oral-history project about the disability experience, to online book discussion groups, to assistive technology coaching, director Jill Rothstein is weaving a strong, flexible, and supportive network for her patrons. In addition, Heiskell has spread the word about CML in many ways, so its patrons are getting it all!

Another shout-out goes to our friends at the Colorado Talking Book Library (CTBL) in Denver. This past spring the library featured an announcement about CML in its newsletter. When curious folks from Colorado started calling and we asked how they'd heard about CML, they said, "from the CTBL audio newsletter!" There is real satisfaction when talking-book library patrons let CML expand their world a little more. We are grateful to Debbi MacLeod for introducing us to her patrons and for recognizing that CML's focus on the human condition beautifully complements the CBTL's year-long discussion called "Leaving on Your Own Terms," about living, dying, grief, and legacy.

And kudos to the many other talking-book libraries across the country that have featured CML in newsletters and blogs, helping to spread the word about our unique, free magazine anthology. Thank you!

### **Highlights**

Though the cooler temperatures of fall haven't reached us here on Long Island *yet*, we know they will arrive—and with them thoughts of the holiday season! This issue includes a couple of pieces about that special time of the year: "Christmas Memories" by **Pat Conroy** (who wrote *The Prince of Tides* and *The Great Santini*) and "Christmas in Prison" by **Kenneth E. Hartman**, a man serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Both offer abundant reasons to be grateful for what we have.

### **Top Picks**

Neurologist and author **Oliver Sacks** died just as we were proofing the issue for production. We "stopped the presses" and added his poignant op-ed from *The New York Times*, "My Own Life." Over the years, we found Dr. Sacks's writing illuminated that nexus between mind and action, body and soul. We will miss his gift of vibrant storytelling, which brought us right to the edge of wonder.

### **And Special Thanks To ...**

**Eve M.**, from just outside Chicago, who says:

"I really enjoyed the spring issue, which included a lot of David Hartley-Margolin! What a wonderful, wonderful reader—he made me feel like I was at a play or a movie. He really brings the words to life! This was the best issue ever!"

**Enjoy!**