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CML News

According to the World Blind Union, less than 10% of books published in developed countries are ever made into an accessible format for individuals with print disabilities. Several years ago, we told you about the Marrakesh Treaty—a monumental, international effort to acknowledge, and end, the worldwide "book famine." This past October, the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act was signed into U.S. law, laying the groundwork for organizations like ours to share copyright-protected reading materials with more of the nearly 285 million people worldwide with visual, physical, perceptual, or other reading impairments. It's taken years to implement the Treaty's complex technical and cultural details. However, at the time of this writing, the United States, the European Union, and 46 other countries have created new standards allowing for the import and export of accessible-format copies of copyrighted literary and musical materials. We'll keep you informed going forward as our plans take shape, but for now, we are delighted by this new opportunity for CML to share its bounty with the world.

Highlights

Greetings from Long Island! Winter has arrived early here, with our first snowfall coming a week before Thanksgiving. We'll spare you the details of the ensuing chaos on our roads and transportation systems, but thankfully, we always carry something worth reading.

In this issue, we begin with **Michael Paterniti's** article, "Jimmy Carter for Higher Office in '18," which pays tender homage to the former President, still going strong at age 94, despite a recent brush with brain cancer. More recently, Donald J. Trump has declared that the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah will be reduced by half. In her piece, "Food Fight," **Kathryn Schulz** profiles two unlikely hometown heroes—the owners of Hell's Backbone

Grill, in the tiny town of Boulder, Utah—who are challenging President Trump’s decision and taking their fight all the way to Washington.

This past November marked the centennial of the end of World War I. U.S. Army veteran **Kevin Honold**’s haunting memoir, “Verdun,” not only reimagines the physical horror of one of the bloodiest battles of that war, but meditates on the psychological and emotional costs to soldiers of all wars, not least their sense of restlessness and alienation upon returning home.

Not all the heroes of the Cold War were dashing male spies. In “Code Name: Venona,” by **Liza Mundy**, we learn of the teams of extraordinary American women, many of them from rural towns, who cracked some of the Soviet Union’s most difficult secret codes.

As always, we bring you a strong selection of poetry. In this issue, we feature remarkable poems by **Henry Taylor** as well as by Latinx poet **Vincent Toro** and Arab Australian poet and editor **Omar Sakr**. We also recommend the complex yet vivid short story, “Left,” by **Renée Branum**, which grapples with childhood memories of abandonment, isolation, and self-exploration.

TOP PICKS:

While we usually rely on the wonderful narrators of Talking Book Publishers (our studio in Colorado) to record our selections, in this issue we have a special treat for you: the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and short story writer **Richard Ford** has allowed us to use his own recording of his deeply moving story, “Displaced,” which originally appeared as part of “The Writer’s Voice” podcast on *The New Yorker* magazine’s website. We are certain that you will enjoy Mr. Ford’s sensitive reading, as well as his soft and subtle Southern accent. We thank Mr. Ford and *The New Yorker* for allowing us to share this recording.

As most of our subscribers know, we at CML love the writing of **Wendell Berry**. In this issue, we include his humorous, yet poignant, tale, “The Great Interruption,” a story about a story and how it became part of a small Kentucky town’s mythology—until “progress” and national homogenization lead to the loss of oral traditions and, ultimately, to the place’s loss of identity.

And Special Thanks To...

Robert B. from Grass Valley, CA who told us recently, "It's a great, great service!"

Happy New Year from Annie, Mike, Jay, Alfredo and Raquel!