CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING

SELECTED MAGAZINE ARTICLES, STORIES AND POETRY • RECORDED FREE FOR THE BLIND • PROJECT OF LUCERNA FUND

For Immediate Release July 2012 Contact: Paul Rabin (516) 503-0271

Choice Magazine Listening celebrates 50 years of free service to the blind, visually impaired, and physically disabled throughout the country

PORT WASHINGTON, NY -- Choice Magazine Listening, a free, nationwide service that provides current, outstanding magazine writing on audio, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The quarterly audio anthologies are offered at no cost to any resident of the United States who is unable to read standard print due to a loss of vision or other disability. Four times a year, professional editors select 12 hours of unabridged articles, short stories, and poetry from leading publications such as The New Yorker, National Geographic, Sports Illustrated, Time, New York Times, Granta, and many others.

Choice Magazine Listening was the brainchild of the late LuEsther Mertz, a New York- area philanthropist who felt that people who are blind should have access to the same noteworthy magazine writing as sighted people. So in 1962 she created the nonprofit Lucerna Fund specifically to bring great magazine writing to this special population, completely free of charge. Authors from CML's early years included such greats as James Thurber, Maxine Kumin, John Kenneth Galbraith, John Updike, Arthur Miller, Rachel Carson, James Michener, Brendan Behan and Arthur Toynbee.

In recent years, our subscribers have been treated to the words of hundreds of talented writers, such as Stephen King, Susan Orlean, Michael Chabon, Calvin Trillin, Annie Proulx, Alice Munro, Ian Frazier, and Philip Levine, to name a few. Our recordings are every bit as memorable as ever.

Today the editors at CML read more than 100 publications, searching for memorable writing to bring to their subscribers throughout the country.

Choice Magazine Listening (<u>www.choicemagazinelistening.org</u>) is recorded on formats compatible with the National Library Service's digital talking-book players. To subscribe free of charge or for more information, please call 1-888-724-6423 or email us at choicemag@aol.com.

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary! 1962 - 2012