

READING MATTERS

Spring 2016



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Phone: (206) 615-0400 • Statewide toll free: (800) 542-0866

wtbbl@sos.wa.gov • www.wtbbl.org

David Junius, Editor



THAT ALL MAY READ...

A Chair with a PACed Deck

by Frank Cuta



Each year at the fall meeting of your Patron Advisory Council (PAC) a chair is elected for the next year. The PAC chair does not have a lot of power but certainly has the ability to stimulate and lead the 15-member council, which can affect the emphasis for the coming year.

As chair for 2016, I hope to get the PAC actively working to reach out to the public and make them more aware of WTBBBL services. WTBBBL staff members already promote their services around the state, but I am convinced that PAC members can do more to assist. Therefore, I am asking each of our PAC members to assume some responsibility this year for library outreach.

But I wish to make a serious effort to go beyond the library staff and the PAC. You, the readers of this article, can be a powerful force to promote library services in your community. Here is my list of some promotional ideas for you to consider:

- Talk to activity directors at retirement centers and extended support facilities about WTBBBL.
- Put up WTBBBL posters in local libraries.
- Ask to leave WTBBBL brochures at your doctor's office.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper thanking local volunteers and praising WTBBBL.
- Suggest opportunities for WTBBBL presentations to service clubs, retirement communities, and places of worship, or information table opportunities at health and senior fairs.

Contact David Junius at (800) 542-0866 or david.junius@sos.wa.gov for free promotional materials, including bookmarks, brochures and large graphic posters. If you wish, David can also put you on a list of community contacts to work directly with WTBBBL staff when they visit your area.

On the Cover: WTBBBL youth patrons enjoying a game of Jenga at a recent event.

Promising Future for WTBBL's Youth Services Program

by Secretary of State Kim Wyman



Washington Heritage Center Trust Board meeting in Tacoma. I was impressed with her enthusiasm and vision for WTBBL's youth services program.

Marian recently received a \$1,000 grant to support Teen Tech Week digital literacy programming that targets underserved or marginalized teens. I'm excited that Marian used the grant funds to create an adapted gaming lab for teens. Gaming is fun, and it builds cognitive skills. Just ask any teen! I'm also pleased that Marian intends to take the gaming lab to schools around the state. This is a great way to attract more teens to WTBBL and make them more aware of the programs it can offer.

If you know a school or family that would benefit from the WTBBL youth services program, let Marian know. She can be reached at marian.mays@sos.wa.gov or (206) 615-1253.

When my two adult children were kids, they were voracious readers. (They still are!) They loved picking out a new book and spending days or weeks reading it. When we went to our local library, I admired the staff for helping kids find books to read and providing fun and entertaining programs. As a mom, I realized how valuable a good youth librarian could be in making reading fun for kids and inspiring them to develop a lifelong love of reading.

Marian Mays, WTBBL's new youth services librarian, is working hard to make this library a bigger and more important part of the lives of Washington youth with visual, physical, or reading disabilities. I recently saw Marian in action at our



A young gamer

From the Registrar's Desk

by Tyler Kaye

Magazine readers have new options on digital cartridge as well as from BARD. NLS has added three periodicals previously unavailable in audio:

AARP The Magazine (bimonthly) and *AARP Bulletin* (10 issues per year), as a single subscription or download. The *Magazine* features lifestyle topics of interest to persons over 50, and the *Bulletin* summarizes federal and state policy issues impacting older adults.

O, The Oprah Magazine (monthly)
Tips on relationships, health, fashion and home, as well as Oprah's Book Club and profiles of inspirational women.

Rolling Stone (biweekly)
Interviews and reviews of popular culture, politics, movies, music and fashion.

Several other magazines, previously available only by download, are now also available on digital cartridge:

Audubon (bimonthly)
Covers the environment, wildlife and conservation issues.

Cowboys & Indians (monthly)
Western lifestyle features on travel, history, culture and real estate.

Humpty Dumpty (bimonthly)
Stories, poems and learning activities that promote health and creativity for children ages 2-6.

Missouri Conservationist (monthly)
Issues affecting fish, forests and wildlife in the state of Missouri.

National Geographic Traveler (monthly)
Travel narratives and guides with a focus on nature and culture.

Oklahoma Today (bimonthly)
Articles about the people, places and culture of Oklahoma.

Playboy (monthly)
Best-selling men's magazine featuring fiction, interviews and entertainment reviews.

Seventeen (monthly)
Fashion, fitness, music, movies and social issues of interest to young women.

Smithsonian (monthly)
Features on history, science, arts and travel.

Southern Living (monthly)
Spotlights Southern food, travel, books, homes and gardens.

Vital Speeches of the Day (monthly)
Full text of speeches by leaders in areas such as business, politics and education.

These magazines are all available free of charge to WTBBL patrons. Call the library at (800) 542-0866 or email wtbbbl@sos.wa.gov to request them.

My Dream Job

by Sally Jo Hagen

Who knew, when I started working at WTBBB in January 1998, that I had landed my dream job?!

At our weekly staff meeting, WTBBB's director Danielle Miller always starts out by reading the many letters we receive from you, your relatives, and your caregivers, stating how important our service is to you. Hearing that makes me feel like I have a job that really matters.

In the shipping department, as in the rest of the library, we are lucky to work with many different programs that send volunteers our way. During the school year, we have students who come from schools around the Seattle area. Some of these students have special needs and are working in a training program, while others are fulfilling their community service requirement for graduation.

In the summertime we have students from the Washington State School for the Blind who participate in the Youth Employment Solutions (YES) program. Participants in the six-week YES program live in the Tri Delta sorority house on the University of Washington campus. For many of the students, this will be their first time away from home. They have the added responsibilities of not only getting to work on time, but also using independent

living skills. WTBBB has been involved with the YES program longer than I have been working here. It's a terrific program, and I truly look forward to it each summer.

Aside from the schools and YES program, we also work with Seattle Works, various sororities, fraternities, clubs and individuals. Working with volunteers really helps keep things rolling in shipping so that we can continue to give you the service you count on.

Please let us know how we're doing and how we can better serve you.



2015 YES participant Emily

Youth Services Update

by Marian Mays

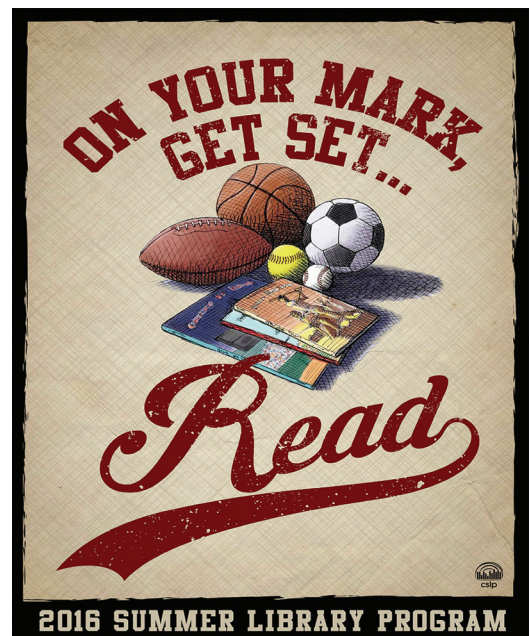
It's a busy time of year for the Youth Services Department at WTBBL! I am excited to announce that we are the recipient of a 2016 Teen Tech Week grant from the Young Adult Library Services Association and Best Buy. To celebrate, we offered an adapted gaming lab program for teens at the library and have put together a wide variety of adapted games we plan to have available for events and to take on the road.

In late January, I visited the Saving Kids' Sight Family Meet 'n' Mingle in Bellevue to share information about our upcoming programs and services. In March, I took our adapted gaming lab to several middle and high school students at the Washington State School for the Blind and in the Yakima School District. Our gaming lab can travel to schools, so contact me today to arrange your outreach visit.

WTBBL's Spring Pen Pal Program is now under way! This year, 55 students from around the state were paired with each other to correspond in contracted braille, uncontracted braille, or large print. Students send their letters to WTBBL and we send them to the pen pals. They are encouraged to write a minimum of three letters to their pen pal before May 31. The pen pal program is a great way for students to practice their

writing skills and make new friends. If you missed this year's deadline, please consider joining us for our next pen pal program in the fall.

Multisensory storytime for all children under 5 and their caregivers is now happening every Friday at 11 a.m. at our location in downtown Seattle. Join us and explore your senses through music, dance, reading, crafts and play! I am also gearing up for WTBBL's 2016 Summer Reading program, "On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!" You can check out our Facebook page, our website, and your mailbox for further information about summer reading. For more details about any of our programs or services, contact me at (206) 615-1253 or marian.mays@sos.wa.gov today.



We're Lucky to Serve You!

by Laura Mott



It's springtime again! We've completed a successful annual campaign that had over 1,300 people give gifts, raising over \$86,000 since July 1, 2015. It's hard to express the immense gratitude we have for our supporters. Many of you give on a regular basis and give generously. Your gifts help us to provide some of the best service in the country to those who are unable to read standard print. We can't do it without you – we recognize this and thank you all for your support.

Our 2015 annual report is complete! We've mailed out the report to donors and it is available at www.wtbbl.org. If you haven't received a copy and would like one, please contact the library. We are proud of our achievements over the past year, yet still know there is much to do. Our promise to patrons is simple – we will continue to innovate and move our organization forward to provide the best service possible.

WTBBL will once again participate in the Seattle Foundation Give BIG on May 3, 2016. GiveBIG is a one-day, online charitable giving event for King County nonprofit organizations where each gift given is "stretched" and will receive a percentage of matching funds. Last year WTBBL brought in approximately \$7,000 in one day! So please help us GiveBIG this year and mark your calendars for May 3rd! You can visit www.facebook.com/WTBBL or call (206) 615-0417 to get more information on GiveBIG!

If you have any questions about giving to WTBBL, please contact Laura Mott at laura.mott@sos.wa.gov or (360) 902-4171.



WTBBL 2015 Annual Report

New Locally-Produced Braille Books

by Ed Godfrey

BRW 1341 *Raven Stole the Moon* by Garth Stein.

Grief-stricken Jenna Rosen leaves her husband and home in Seattle to solve the mystery of her son's disappearance two years ago near her childhood home in Alaska. Strange events lead her to see a Tlingit shaman to help save her son's soul. Some strong language. 2010. Transcribed by Eric Sorlien.

BRW 1350 *Company Towns of the Pacific Northwest* by Linda Carlson.

Carlson's research reveals everyday life in the company towns of the Northwest as well as their significance to the economy and social history of this region. The author looks at all aspects of these "intentional towns," including what happened when the people, jobs or entire company left. 2009. Transcribed by Eric Sorlien.

BRW 1417 *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown.

Recounts the accomplishments of nine working-class athletes from the University of Washington who beat elite teams at home and abroad and won the gold

medal for rowing at the 1936 Nazi-orchestrated Berlin Olympics. 2013. Transcribed by Carol Studer.

BRW 1427 *Mink River* by Brian Doyle. In a small fictional town on the Oregon coast there are love affairs, mystery and hilarity, bears and tears, brawls and boats, a garrulous logger and a silent doctor, Irish immigrants and Salish stories, mud and laughter. 2010. Transcribed by Kathleen Baginski.

BRW 1433 *Made in Hanford: The Bomb that Changed the World* by Hill Williams. In 1942, a small plane carrying Lt. Col. Franklin T. Matthias and two DuPont engineers flew over three farming communities in eastern Washington. The passengers agreed. Isolated and near the powerful Columbia River, the region was the ideal site for the world's first plutonium factory. The plutonium it produced fueled the bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945. Transcribed by Carol Studer.

BRW 1443 *Outside the Lines* by Amy Hatvany.

A gripping novel about a woman who sets out to find the father who left her years ago, and ends up discovering herself. 2012. Transcribed by Gail Viscione.

News You Can Use from Audio Books

by John Pai

As spring arrives in the Pacific Northwest, we are seeing the new fruit of our efforts in book production. Bonnie Brown has been placed as a 32-hour-per-week staff member in Audio Books and volunteer Leah Adams is a regular weekly volunteer dedicated to full-time editing.

In the space of two months, we've been able to get 28 titles completed and prepped for upload to the NLS BARD site. We hope to maintain this production rate over the course of a busy year, as the department will also be producing the audio version of the voters' guide for the State of Washington. Kudos to our 75-plus volunteers in book production. We look forward to a banner year!

Some of our New Titles:

DBC 303 *Under One Roof: Lessons I Learned from a Tough Old Woman in a Little Old House* by Barry Martin. The inspiring true story of the bond between a feisty octogenarian and the man in charge of building an enormous shopping mall around her home. Edith Macefield achieved folk hero status in 2006 when she turned down \$1 million to sell her home to make way for a

commercial development in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle. It didn't matter that her tiny house was surrounded by rubble and graffiti. It was home. Narrated by Norm Zimmerman.

DBC 220 *Former People: The Final Days of the Russian Aristocracy* by Douglas Smith.

Examines the fate of two Russian aristocratic families in a detailed account of the Bolshevik Revolution's effect on the upper class, discussing the relentless looting, harrowing escapes, humbling exile and imprisonment, and summary executions that took place during this violent time of transition. Narrated by Camille Blanchette.

DBC 221 *Storms of Denali* by Nicholas O'Connell.

Reaching 20,320 feet into and above the clouds, the peak of Denali is the highest and coldest summit in North America. In this novel of adventure, adversity, and ambition, four men set out to conquer it. Throughout the book, the author's first-hand experience lends vivid reality to the challenges of the mountain and to the bonds formed and broken in the pursuit of its summit. Narrated by Floyd Hutton.

Volunteer Spotlight on Library Services

WTBBL benefits from more than 200 volunteers, and especially valuable are librarians and library students who choose to work with us. Since last year, librarian Pia Fish and library masters student Heather Diaz have been working on special projects keeping our collection and catalog in tip-top shape! Here's some background on these talented volunteers in their own words!

Pia Fish

I fell in love with libraries when I was hired in college to work in the reference department of the undergraduate library. I loved watching the librarians respond to a range of questions from students, and soon they taught me how to answer some of the easy ones. I was hooked and eventually attended graduate school to become a librarian myself. My first position was at a teaching hospital, where I helped the medical staff, patients and family members.

I moved to Seattle, and became a librarian at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, helping scientists, epidemiologists and statisticians. I wanted a more direct sense of helping people, however, so I transitioned to

the Cancer Information Service, helping people with cancer questions. Funding eventually vanished for that program, so I turned to volunteering.

In college, one of my most important mentors recorded books for the blind. That prompted me to seek out WTBBL, where I assist with cataloging and help in the shipping department. I am also taking the braille transcription class, a challenging but rewarding activity. I get much satisfaction from supporting the broad and tangible services WTBBL provides.



Pia Fish

Heather Diaz

Growing up in Memphis as the daughter of an elementary school teacher, I spent a lot of time reading books and hanging out at my local branch library. As a college student in Boston, I studied anthropology and women's studies. I have always been interested in stories, whether lived, told, or written.

After graduation, I spent the next eight years working on organic vegetable and flower farms, learning the stories of plants. When my partner placed in Seattle for his medical residency, I was excited to leave the pastoral valleys of western Massachusetts for the big city with its famous produce markets.

Although I enjoyed participating in the amazing diversity of Seattle's farmers' markets, I eventually started thinking about a career change and applied to the University of Washington library and information science program. Now, as a first-year master's candidate, I've had the chance to stretch myself intellectually in a supportive learning environment. It's a huge change from hauling vegetables from field to market!

Volunteering at WTBBB has been awesome for me. I get hands-on experience working in the catalog and I get to watch library services happening all around me. I've been lucky to work with other volunteers and to learn from the staff as well.

Outside of graduate school and WTBBB, I also run the adult fiction book club at the Capitol Hill branch of the Seattle Public Library and volunteer at the Northeast Seattle Tool Library. I try to keep my garden from getting too out-of-control weedy, and I love taking long bike rides through Seattle's neighborhoods.



Heather Diaz

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Washington State Library



WTBBL Staff 2016

Top row (left to right): Ed, Steve, Tyler, Alan, Marah, David

Middle row: Rocio, Herrick, Amy, Shannon, Marian, John

Bottom row: Sally Jo, Danielle, Bonnie