READING MATTERS

Second Quarter 2024



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY 2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday Phone: 206-615-0400 • Toll free: 800-542-0866 wtbbl@sos.wa.gov • www.wtbbl.org

That All May Read

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY DANIELLE MILLER



In April, we took time to celebrate our amazing volunteers. The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) would not be nearly as successful as it is or as enjoyable a place to be without our volunteers. They give so much of their time, their talent, and their passion to help us ensure that all may read. In fiscal year 2023, our volunteers contributed over 8,500 hours, had 504 audiobooks in process, completed 127 new audiobooks, had 91 braille books in process, and completed 21 new braille books.

At our volunteer appreciation event, we had local author and journalist Ron Chew speak about his

book, **My Unforgotten Seattle** (DBC19241) with our Audiobook Supervisor, John Pai. A highlight of the event was our longtime narrator, Rick Sipe, receiving the Washington State Volunteer Service Award for the North Puget Sound Region from Serve Washington. Rick has been a narrator for sixteen years and has done forty-three books spanning genres and enriching our local collection.

Opening Windows to the World, our silent art auction, was a great success and a very enjoyable evening where attendees celebrated art, accessibility, and the WTBBL community. Over 50 works were contributed by patrons, volunteers, community members, and library staff. Works ranged from sculpture and textiles to paintings with and without tactile elements, pottery, and more.



[cont. on next page]



Attendees were also treated to live music from a WTBBL patron and artist, tours of the library, and refreshments. I want to extend my thanks to all the WTBBL staff, Washington State Library Staff, and Secretary of State staff who helped make the event run smoothly. We couldn't do what we do without the help of our friends.

The summer always brings adventure, and that is true with your WTBBL library service. This year's summer reading theme is Adventure



Begins at Your Library. We'll be running our youth library program as always, and this year, we'll do our second year of adult summer reading with another Book Bingo program. We will also be participating in the NLS summer reading program, providing great supplemental offerings to the WTBBL programs. Read more about both WTBBL summer reading programs in this issue of Reading Matters.

If you are a Magazine on Cartridge subscriber, you may have noticed a change in your mailbox. WTBBL is now providing your magazine service directly to you from the library. This change should result in quicker, more consistent magazine service. Please see the announcement about the Magazine on Cartridge service in this issue. As always, if you have any questions, please contact us.

Finally, please look ahead to meet our newest staff member, Jordyn Richey, Training and Assistive Technology Librarian. We are delighted to have them on our team and know you'll love working with them. Happy reading, and enjoy your adventures this summer!



STATE LIBRARY UPDATE



"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." **Vincent van Gogh**

Strategic Planning is an important element of successful organizations. The Washington State Library has not conducted a strategic planning process in over six years.

Central Library Services, providing library services since Washington was a territory, is in an active strategic planning process to determine direction, vision, and service levels to library patrons.

This process is anticipated to be completed this summer. WTBBL, Institutional Library Services, and Library Development will follow a similar process, and a plan for the entire State Library will be formalized. This will provide direction, focus, and support for the breadth of services we provide.

Book Bingo

We are pleased to bring back our adult summer reading program after a successful first year. We encourage you to get out of your comfort zone this summer with our theme: Adventure! Take a trip on a pirate ship, venture into space, or get lost in the wild, all from the comfort of your home. Staff have been working to gather thrilling reads; just ask for a reading list to browse our recommended titles. Keep up with our social media for weekly staff picks as the summer goes on!

To participate in the program, reach out via phone (1-800-542-0866) or email (wtbbl@sos.wa.gov) and let us know what format you'd like. Game materials are available in large print, braille, and electronic formats. Track your reading on the Bingo board and send completed boards in by Friday September 6th to be entered into a raffle for prizes! One Bingo entry per patron.



Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

ED RETIRES FROM WTBBL BY TRACI TIMMONS



Ed Godfrey started his career providing library services to the blind in 1985. Ronald Regan was President, and the Washington Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, as it was known then, was still a service administered by the Seattle Public Library. Ed weathered a lot of changes in his long career, including the advent of electronic braille, the myriad of braille software, and the file types that followed.

The biggest change of all was the adoption of a new braille code in 2016, when the Braille Authority of North America voted to replace English Braille American Edition (EBAE) with Unified English Braille (UEB). That meant Ed needed to learn the new

code and train his volunteers in the new code. Braille books produced from then on would be in this new code. Ed already had his certification in Music Braille, and he went on to receive certification in UEB, too.

Ed taught hundreds of students braille through his literary braille transcription courses, many of whom became WTBBL volunteer transcribers. With Ed's guidance, training, and final editing, more than 800 braille books were produced during his tenure. In addition to all of those books, he also created braille materials for the annual Summer Reading program and the Braille Challenge. He made WTBBL's quarterly newsletters available to braille readers (yes, this issue is available in braille, too!), and brailled numerous other materials from proclamations to meeting agendas to certificates.

From board books to manuals, fiction and nonfiction, and everything in between, Ed made sure resources were accessible to braille readers from ages 0 to 120 throughout the state and the country.

Thank you for your service, Ed!



YOUTH SERVICES

BY ERIN GROTH



Summer Reading at WTBBL is about to kick off! Early Learners, Children, and Teens have signed up to receive eight weeks' worth of activity packets in the mail with all sorts of fun crafts, book suggestions, and Reading Challenges. This year's theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library[™] and we sure have several exciting in-person and virtual adventures planned for the season! From watersports outings with the Northwest Association for Blind Athletes (NWABA) to scavenger hunts and musical instrument petting zoos, we are exploring all meanings of the word "adventure" this summer. NLS will also host several virtual events and programs for kids of all ages that fit the theme.

An exciting Reading Challenge is in place, with winners eligible for great prizes and recognition statewide!

Below is a preliminary calendar of events, with more details on the way. For complete schedules, registration, and more information, visit the Youth Services pages of our website at:

https://www.sos.wa.gov/washington-talking-book-braille-library/youth-services

Registration is required to attend most events, but you do not need to be signed up for weekly Summer Reading Packets or the Reading Challenge to participate!

June 24: Summer Reading Program begins; NLS Virtual Kickoff event (all ages) at 1 p.m.

NLS Director Jason Broughton will kick off this year's summer reading program with a warm welcome, and Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden will delight our young readers with a picture book reading of **The Adventures of Marshmallow and Peter** (BR025025 in process, DBC30393) by Peter Heath

July 13: Inclusion Fest with Seattle Public Library at Woodland Park Zoo

July 14: Outdoors camp event (more information TBA)

July 18: NLS Virtual Storytime and Music by Turtle Dance Music at 1 p.m.



July 25: NLS Virtual Author Talk with Angeline Boulley and Andrea L. Rogers at 4 p.m.

New York Times bestselling author Angeline Boulley will discuss her books **Firekeeper's Daughter** (BR024040, DB102762) and **Warrior Girl Unearthed** (BR025116 in process, DB114761) in conversation with the moderator, the awardwinning author Andrea L. Rogers. The recording of this event will be available for two weeks following the talk.

July 31: Escape Room for Teens with DSB in Yakima (details to be determined)

August 6: Watersports with NWABA event in Vancouver, WA

August 16: Reading Logs due; Summer Reading Ends

Want to know more about Youth Services at WTBBL? Contact Youth Librarian Erin at Erin.Groth@sos.wa.gov, visit WTBBL's Youth Services page on our website at: https://www.sos.wa.gov/washington-talking-book-braille-library/youth-services, and subscribe to **Dots**, the Youth Patron Newsletter!

WTBBL Now Distributes Your Magazines!

At the beginning of June, we began distributing nationally produced audio versions of magazines from the Magazine on Cartridge (MoC) program via our Duplication on Demand (DoD) system. Previously you received these magazines from a national distributor, and they arrived in red containers. Now, you will receive these magazines directly from WTBBL in grey containers.

This new distribution system will have no effect on the content of your magazines. It will allow for faster check-ins of your returned magazines, and the time it takes for you to receive new issues should decrease. Just like with other materials on cartridge, when you return your magazine cartridges back to us, new issues will be automatically sent out, provided that new issues of the magazines you read are available. We hope that this change will improve your magazine-reading experience.

Please note that the audio version of **Talking Book Topics** and all braille magazines will still come directly from NLS. If you have any questions about your magazines, please contact us at wtbbl@sos.wa.gov or call us at 206-615-0400 or 1-800-542-0866.



NEW AUDIOBOOKS

Spring is finally here, and new audiobooks are blooming!

For Adult readers we have:

Books 1, 2, and 5 from Pacific Northwest author Ellie Alexander's Sloan Krause series:



Sloan Krause quit her job at her husband's brewery after she caught him with a barmaid. She found work at a rival microbrewery, but still felt obligated to help her ex after he was accused of murder.

2017 Narrated by Mary Kelly.

DBC19111 The Pint of No Return by Ellie Alexander

Sloan Krause, manager of a craft beer pub in Bavarian-themed Leavenworth, Washington, has her hands full with an impending divorce and Oktoberfest. This year a documentary is

being made about Oktoberfest—until Sloan finds the star dead in front of the beer tent.



2019 Narrated by Barb Scamman.



DBC19249 **The Cure for What Ales You** by Ellie Alexander

Leavenworth, Washington. Sloan Krause would rather be pouring beer during Maifest, but a woman claiming to be her aunt has arrived and claims Sloan is in danger. It becomes all too believable when Alex, Sloan's son, is kidnapped.

2019 Narrated by Barb Scamman.

We also have #3: Beyond a Reasonable Stout (DBC19112) and #4: Without a Brew (DBC19113). We'll be continuing this series, too!



Washington Talking Book & Braille Library





DBC19057 I'm Not Done: It's Time to Talk About Ageism in the Workplace by Patti Temple Rocks

A well-researched deep dive into ageism in the workplace—what it looks like, how it harms people and businesses alike, and how business leaders can get on the right side of the issue.

2018 Narrated by Mary Schlosser.

DBC19338 The Disabled Hiker's Guide to Western Washington and Oregon: Outdoor Adventures Accessible by Car, Wheelchair, and on Foot by Syren Nagakyrie

A first book of its kind to consider the diverse needs of disabled people in the outdoors. This groundbreaking guidebook includes 60 outdoor adventures, including drive-up experiences, verified wheelchair accessible trails, and foot trails suitable for disabled hikers. This book removes one of the barriers to accessa lack of information- by utilizing a rating system and detailed

trail information designed for the disability community. Each trail is personally assessed according to Syren's skilled and detailed review and established accessibility guidelines.

2022 Narrated by Gregg Porter.

Contains an interview produced by WTBBL with author Syren Nagakyrie.

For YA/Children's/Juvenile readers we have:



DBC19082 Jelly Roll by Mere Joyce

At school, Jenny Royce is bullied by

Grade A Jerk Austin Parks. When Jenny and Austin end up at a March Break leadership camp together, Jenny thinks her week will be miserable. Especially once she and Austin are grouped together for the camp's main assignment. They have to run a stall at a local farmer's market. The market could be a lot of fun. But when Jenny learns that Austin wants their group's project to fail, she has to decide if she can risk standing up to him.

For grades 4-7.

2020 Narrated by Martha Baskin.



DBC19056 **Enough is Enough: How Students Can Join the Fight for Gun Safety** by Michelle Roehm McCann

This handbook deftly explains America's gun violence issues – myths and facts, causes and perpetrators, solutions and change-makers– and provides a road map for effective activism. Told in three parts, Enough Is Enough also explores how America got to this point and the obstacles we must overcome, including historical information about the Second Amendment, the history of guns in America, and an overview of the NRA. Informative chapters include interviews with teens who have survived gun violence and student activists who are launching their own movements across the country. Additionally, the book includes a Q&A with gun owners who support increased gun safety laws.



For junior high school and older.

2019 Narrated by Mary Schlosser.



DBC19061 The Goblins of Bellwater by Molly Ringle

Most people have no idea goblins live in the woods around the small town of Bellwater, Washington. But some are about to find out. Skye, a young barista and artist, falls victim to a goblin curse in the forest one winter night, rendering her depressed and silenced, unable to speak of what happened.

For senior high and older.

2017 Narrated by Candace Kramer.



NEW STAFF AT WTBBL BY JORDYN RICHEY



Hello everyone! My name is Jordyn Richey, and I couldn't be more excited about joining the WTBBL team. As your new Training & Assistive Technology Librarian, I am responsible for technical support and training on NLS equipment and technology services. I'll be your go-to person for questions about Digital Talking Book Players, braille eReaders, BARD, and other equipment and services.

I grew up in Minnesota but moved to Arizona for college and to begin my career as a fine arts photographer/printmaker. While I still love creating tintypes and

albumen prints, I eventually found my passion in librarianship and never looked back. After completing my undergraduate degree, I fled the scorching heat of the desert to pursue my Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Washington.

I've now lived in Washington for almost eight years, and I hope to never leave. In that time, I have worked in many different kinds of libraries, from art museums to public libraries to digital archives. I've even dressed up as a giant snowman to dance and sing for kids at story times. I am very excited about my new library journey with WTBBL, and I look forward to connecting with our patrons and community.

Outside of the library, I enjoy discovering new recipes, playing tabletop roleplaying games with my friends, and attempting to drink all the coffee in Washington. I am also a tarot reader and deck creator.

Of course, I love to read. Picking a favorite book, subject, or genre would be impossible, but I always enjoy an excellent fantasy, sci-fi, romance, or memoir. Recently I've even started diving into horror. Some books I have enjoyed lately are **The Sunbearer Trials** by Aiden Thomas (DB110667), **Honey Girl** by Morgan Rogers (DB104321), **Sipping Dom Pérignon Through a Straw** by Eddie Ndopu (DB116797, BR025207), and **A House with Good Bones** by T. Kingfisher (DB114719).



BRAILLE DEPARTMENT NEWS BY TRACI TIMMONS

As you read on page 5, our biggest news is that Ed Godfrey, Braille Coordinator for nearly forty years, has retired. We are in the process of hiring his replacement and hope to be able to share news about a new staff person in that role in the next **Reading Matters** issue.

Many of our braille readers may have noticed that WTBBL has not added new braille books to BARD for some time. The reason is that NLS has been working on a more secure way for us to upload those books. We have some good news to report: we will again be able to upload braille books starting in the next few months. We greatly appreciate your patience as we have worked through getting to this more efficient process with NLS.

In the meantime, we have been working on children's books and have completed the following juvenile titles:

NEW BRAILLE BOOKS

BB024208 A is for Activist by Innosanto Nagara

An ABC book about activism, environmental justice, civil rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, and other topics that activists believe in and fight for. PRINT/BRAILLE.

For grades K-3.

2013 Transcribed by Traci Timmons. Proofread by Abby Traverse and Caroline Baptist.



BB024212 My Little Pony: Pinkie Pie Throws a Party [no author listed]

Help the Ponies prepare for a special party in this simple board book. PRINT/BRAILLE.

For preschool and older.

2008 Transcribed by Allison Tang. Proofread by Abby Traverse and Caroline Baptist.





BB024209 Hands Are Not for Hitting by Martine Agassi

Shows the many good things that toddlers can do with their hands including waving, hugging, and playing—but not hitting. Board book. PRINT/BRAILLE.

For preschool and younger.

Note: an embossed contracted braille version of the "A Word to Parents and Caregivers" section is spiral bound and packaged with the print/braille version of the book.

2009 Transcribed by Allison Tang. Proofread by Stacy Thurston and Warren Askov.

BB024210 **Curious George and the Rocket** by H.A. Rey and Margret Rey

Curious George goes on an adventure in a rocket ship to space. PRINT/BRAILLE.

For preschool and older.

2001 Transcribed by Allison Tang. Proofread by Stacy Thurston and Warren Askov.





BB024211 **All Aboard! Pacific Northwest** by Kevin Meyers and Haily Meyers

Explore the Pacific Northwest in this easy board book for young travelers. PRINT/BRAILLE.

For preschool and older.

2015 Transcribed by Allison Tang. Proofread by Stacy Thurston and Warren Askov.



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BER00177 The New Baby by Christine Platt

Ana & Andrew are expecting a sibling! The family is very excited. Mama's family arrives from Trinidad, and everyone helps to get ready. When the baby arrives, Ana & Andrew learn from Granny that in African American culture, a baby's name often tells an important story.

For preschool and older.

Note: the embossed uncontracted braille version is spiral bound and packaged with the print version of the book. An audiobook version on cartridge is also included.

2020 Transcribed by Ed Godfrey. Proofread by Lanae Naugle and Martha Oman.

Part of the Ana & Andrew series.

BER00178 Something Is Wrong at My House: A Book About Parents Fighting by Diane Davis

A boy who lives with domestic violence finally has the courage to speak to an adult and ask for help. First published in 1984.

For grades 1-3.

Note: the embossed contracted braille version is spiral bound and packaged with the print version of the book. An audiobook version on cartridge is also included.

2010 Transcribed by Emi Green. Proofread by Lanae Naugle and Martha Oman.



illustrated by Keith R. Neely



BER00176 Digital Safety Smarts: Preventing Cyberbullying by Mary Lindeen

Discusses digital citizenship and what to do about cyberbullying and online harassment.

For grades 4 and above.

Note: the embossed contracted braille version is spiral bound and packaged with the print version of the book. An audiobook version on cartridge will be included soon.

2016 Transcribed by Karen Hara. Proofread by Stacy Thurston and Warren Askov.

BER00179 Insults Aren't Funny: What to Do About Verbal Bullying by Amanda F. Doering

Sensitive, narrative text from illustrated animal characters shows readers what verbal bullying is and provides possible solutions to stop it.

For preschool and older.

Note: the embossed uncontracted braille version is spiral bound and packaged with the print version of the book. An audiobook version on cartridge is also included.



2016 Transcribed by Karen Hara. Proofread by multiple teams.



BRP01529 **The Skin I'm In: A First Look at Racism** by Pat Thomas

A simple explanation of racism, its basic causes, and the ways in which it can lead to unfair practices.

For preschool and older. PRINT/BRAILLE.

Note: an embossed contracted braille version of the "How To Use This Book" section is spiral bound and packaged with the print/braille version of the book. An audiobook version on cartridge is also included.

2003 Transcribed by Ed Godfrey and Traci Timmons. Proofread by Abby Traverse and Caroline Baptist.



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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



I am absolutely amazed at what it takes to get materials translated in either format [braille or audiobook].

Martha has been volunteering with WTBBL for over ten years! While she can't remember the exact date, she remembers it was not long after moving to downtown Seattle in 2010. She noted that WTBBL was not far from her home, and she was familiar with services for the blind. Her father, a PhD Research Chemist, used to record chemistry textbooks for the blind. Additionally, she was aware of reading school librarian

services for the blind from her time as a school librarian.

Martha works in two volunteer departments! As an Audiobook Reviewer, she listens to the recordings by Audiobook Narrators and flags any parts that need editing. She pays attention to the details, intonations, and pronunciations of the words and phrases, and Martha notes that often she doesn't pay attention to the book or plot in comparison to the details! She finds the recording studio a bit lonely but still a fun experience. As a Braille Proofreading Monitor, she works with a Tactile Braille Proofreader to flag any parts of a transcribed text that need to be edited. She enjoys working with a partner and calls it very rewarding. She has had two partners over the years, and she notes that partners working together get very attached to each other. Martha enjoys both of her volunteering roles, as she is wildly detail-oriented.

Her favorite part of volunteering is the people! She says that the staff is incredible, and the dedication of the huge volunteer corps and staff is wonderful. She loves to walk in the door and calls WTBBL a wonderful place to be!

Martha doesn't have as much time to read as she'd like, but she enjoys history books about the Seattle and Washington area. While she prefers non-fiction, she recommends Lisa See for good fiction books.

One of her favorite memories comes from her school librarian days. During the process of automating the book collection, she enlisted a deaf student to help. She noticed that this student was terrific at detail and wonderful at doing their work since they were un-distractable. This student went on to become a librarian at Gallaudet University, and

Martha is thrilled that she was a part of that inspiration of the student to pursue library sciences!



Thank you to all our donors, patrons, and champions who supported WTBBL from January 1 to March 31, 2024. Every donation is appreciated, big or small, as each gift helps us better serve you. You can give by sending a check to WTBBL or giving online by credit card at www.wtbbl.org. Thank you for helping us make your library the best it can be!

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