

READING MATTERS

Fall
2020



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

In these continuously uncertain times, we believe libraries are more important than ever.

WTBBL staff have been working hard both from the library and at home to provide your library service and support you during a constantly changing landscape. We are committed to getting you the books you need and empowering you to keep reading.

And if our most recent data is any indication, you have been reading! These past several months have seen some of our highest circulation numbers in recent memory. In June, our first month back, we circulated over 32,000 books, the most for a single month in several years. This July, we circulated over 26,000 books, a 5.5% increase over July 2019, and we continue to have high circulation numbers.

WTBBL staff are some of the most dedicated and resilient people I have ever known, and I am honored to work with them. We have been supporting each other and working together within and among departments, building an even stronger team. Remote work and collaboration have resulted in new ideas and new ways to get things done. We are innovating, adapting quickly, and ensuring ongoing operation of our most essential services.

In August we held our first meeting of the WTBBL quarterly patron Book Club. We had a great turnout, and there was a lively discussion about a local mystery, including reminiscing about restaurants that have since closed and a time when the Seattle traffic wasn't so bad. Our second meeting will be Dec. 16 with another local selection. We look forward to having you join us. Keep reading for more information about the book selection and how to participate.

This year is a big election year, and our Audio Book Production Department produced the state voters' pamphlet. The department's work helps to ensure access to information and full participation in Washington elections.

Every three years we ask you to let us know how we are doing and what we could do better. Your feedback is critical in shaping library services, and helping us focus our efforts and make improvements. We enclosed our patron-satisfaction survey in the large-print newsletter. We ask that you take some time to fill it out and return it, or use the link provided to submit the survey online. Thank you for providing us this valuable feedback and helping us enhance your library service.

Watch for our recommended reads lists for a good book to curl up with this fall. Have a wonderful holiday season and stay well.

Programming may not be in-person this year, but the Youth Services Department is as busy as ever. We wound down the 2020 Summer Reading Program with children participating remotely in a virtual escape room called "Escape from WTBBL!"

Activity packets, challenges, and reading recommendations based on the "Imagine Your Story" theme were mailed to students statewide for eight weeks this summer. Our grand prize winners – chosen by raffle from those who turned in their reading logs – were Michael M. in the Early Literacy category, Abigail B. in the Children's category, and Griffin L. in the Teen category. Congratulations to these readers, who completed their goals of 16 hours or 16 books read! We can't wait to do it all again next summer. Next year we will have a wild animal theme of "Tails and Tales."

This fall saw a strange start to the school year, but never fear! WTBBL is here as always to help students, parents, and teachers with audio, large print, and braille materials for classroom activities and leisure reading.

We are bursting with fun projects as well. The Teen Advisory Board and Youth Services Department are creating an art installation in the library's public browsing area. The installation, "Lend a Hand So That All May Read," will feature a 3D mosaic of youth patrons' handprints decorated with colorful sand and framed so that guests

can see the diversity of our youth patrons. If you haven't sent back your handprint yet, or haven't received a kit to make one, please contact Youth Librarian Erin Groth at erin.groth@sos.wa.gov.

Missing the annual Halloween party we hold at the library? Don't worry! This year WTBBL invites you to celebrate with a spooky virtual escape room based on Ray Bradbury's book, *The Halloween Tree*. Our escape rooms are designed to be accessible for screen readers and work on the Google Forms platform. They are recommended for ages 8 and up. Visit our Digital Escape Room at <https://tinyurl.com/WTBBLescape>.

It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is upon us. Stay tuned to find out about a cheerful virtual winter party coming to a screen near you this December.

Want to stay in the know on all things Youth Services? Sign up for DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter, a bimonthly email bulletin to keep you up to date. The link to sign up can be found on the Youth Services page of WTBBL's website.

On the cover: WTBBL Readers Gregg and Rachel help produce the audio version of the November 3, 2020 General Election Voters' Pamphlet. Call (800) 448-4881 for more information.

NEW AUDIO BOOKS FROM WTBBL

BY JOHN PAI

Fall is here! Celebrate the change of seasons with some familiar genres and some classic historical subjects.

DBC 6992 *Tales of a Tail Gunner: A Memoir of Seattle and World War II* by Eddie S. Picardo.

Author Eddie Picardo is a natural storyteller. He describes growing up in a large, close-knit, Italian-American family in north Seattle before World War II. He joined the Army Air Force when the war came and found himself in the rear turret of a B-24 bomber over Europe. 1996. Narrated by Norm Zimmerman.

DBC 15709 *Cast in Stone* by G.M. Ford.

Private investigator Leo Waterman is contacted by an old flame who thinks her daughter-in-law survived the fatal boating accident that killed her son. Soon Leo is thinking the daughter-in-law did survive and is leaving a trail of mayhem behind her. 1996. Narrated by Dan Shields.

DBC 6977 *Chief Seattle and the Town That Took His Name* by David Buerge.

Born in the late 1700s, Chief Seattle was an established leader when settlers arrived at the site of the city that bears his name. His working relations with the settlers helped shape the future of the city and his people. 2017. Narrated by Gregg Porter.

DBC 6922 *In the Clearing* by Robert Dugoni.

Klickitat County and Seattle, Washington detective Tracy Crosswhite is juggling two cases: a domestic murder in Seattle and a 40-year-old cold case in Klickitat County. She'll have to work her way through a thicket of lies if she's to solve either one. 2016. Narrated by Courtney Maheras.

DBC 16932 *King of Fish: The Thousand-Year Run of Salmon* by David R. Montgomery.

Traces the human impacts on salmon over the last thousand years and examines the implications for salmon recovery efforts. While aware of the possible bleak outcome for the salmon, the book concludes with provocative recommendations for reinventing the ways in which we make environmental decisions about land, water, and fish. 2003. Narrated by Lynda Emel.

For our younger readers, we have a few titles to stimulate the mind.

DBC 7050 *Where I Live* by Brenda Rufener.

Linden is a girl with a secret: though she works hard to keep up appearances, the truth is weighing down on her. She is homeless, and sleeps at her high school every night. Linden believes she can keep this up, until one of her classmates comes to school with a bruised face, and questions of abuse and her own past come bubbling to the surface. For junior- and senior-high readers. 2018. Narrated by Beth Larimore.

DBC 7044 *Mismatch* by Lensey Namioka.

Suzanne Hua is the new girl at a mostly white high school in Seattle. When she meets Andy Suzuki in her orchestra class, she is intrigued but wary of what her father and grandmother consider clashing heritages. The other kids in her class think they should date, but Suzanne's and Andy's families have some prejudices about their children's choice of partner. For grades 6-9. 2006. Narrated by Sherry Yang.

DBC 16750 *Aunt Nancy and the Bothersome Visitors* by Phyllis Root.

Four humorous tall tales about the ingenious ways Aunt Nancy rids herself of pesky visitors – those who have overstayed their welcome, and even Mr. Death! For grades 2-4. 2007. Narrated by Karen Smith-Fraser.

DBC 16905 *Hunt for the Past: My Life as an Explorer* by Sue Hendrickson.

This self-taught field paleontologist tells about the exhilaration of her first "find" to unearthing the largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossil ever found. For grades 2-4. 2001. Narrated by Mary Schlosser.



ADVICE FROM READERS' ADVISORY

BY ALAN BENTSON

By the end of the year we hope to have in place a new system of circulating books. Instead of sending you several cartridges each with one book, you will receive a smaller number of cartridges with a bundle of books on each one. Every time a cartridge is returned, we will create a new cartridge for you with another bundle of books. There are many advantages to this:

- You gain access to the entire collection instead of what happens to be on the shelf on a given day. You should never hear "It's not on the shelf" or "We'll put this book on reserve for you" again. If we've got it, you can have it. This means you can get old favorites and brand new books easily.

- Even if you have only two or three cartridges on hand, you will have many more books out than before. As many as 15 books will fit on one cartridge.

- Since books will be freshly downloaded, cartridges should have fewer technical problems.

We will be choosing from the entire collection, so we happily welcome your requests for specific titles, authors, and subjects. You may wish to call us now at (800) 542-0866 to update your preferences. We look forward to hearing from you!



Masked and gloved Shipping Department supervisor Sally Jo prepares digital cartridges for WTBBL's new service

WTBBL Patron Survey 2020

Patron feedback is the most important way for us to determine what services and resources to offer. It is important for us to get your feedback regarding our services, how well they are delivered, and what could be done better.

This survey has 16 questions and includes ones where you can share your thoughts with written responses. All questions are important, as are the opinions and ideas you share with us. All answers are confidential and anonymous.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Danielle Miller at (206) 615-1588, (800) 542-0866, or danielle.miller@sos.wa.gov.

An online version of this survey is available at <https://tinyurl.com/WTBBLSurvey>.

PLEASE REMOVE THIS CENTER SECTION FROM THE STAPLES AT LEFT,
FILL OUT THE SURVEY, FOLD IN HALF AT THE DOTTED LINE BELOW
WITH THIS SIDE FACING OUT, AND TAPE CLOSED.
FREE MATTER RETURN POSTAGE IS MARKED BELOW.

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FREE MATTER
for the Blind
or Handicapped

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1. Have you contacted WTBBL in the past year? Yes No

2. If so, what method(s) did you use? Please circle all that apply.

- a. Phone call
- b. Email
- c. In-person visit
- d. Written correspondence
- e. Other _____

3. How did you find out about WTBBL? Please circle all that apply.

- a. Friend/Family
- b. Support Group
- c. School
- d. Speaker/Event
- e. Referred by Professional
- f. Brochure, rack card, or other publication
- g. Radio or television announcement
- h. Online
- i. Other _____

4. How do WTBBL services benefit you? Please circle all that apply.

- a. Entertainment
- b. Knowledge
- c. Quality of life
- d. Education/Research
- e. Other _____

5. For the WTBBL services you use, please circle a rating on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent." If you do not use a listed service, please do not circle a rating number.

a. Digital audio books on cartridge	1	2	3	4	5
b. Book selections the library makes for you	1	2	3	4	5
c. BARD	1	2	3	4	5
d. BARD mobile app	1	2	3	4	5
e. Braille books	1	2	3	4	5
f. Youth large-print books	1	2	3	4	5
g. Magazines on cartridge from NLS	1	2	3	4	5
h. WTBBL online catalog	1	2	3	4	5
i. WTBBL social media	1	2	3	4	5
j. WTBBL website	1	2	3	4	5
k. Other _____	1	2	3	4	5

6. Are you aware that WTBBL has special services and programs for youth patrons and schools?

Yes No

7. If you answered yes to Question 6, do you receive the DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter?

Yes No

8. Are you aware that WTBBL produces talking books and braille for its patrons in Washington and to share with the rest of the U.S.?

Yes No

9. Do you use the internet? Yes No

10. Which services listed below do you use? Please circle all that apply.

- a. Audible
- b. Bookshare
- c. Foreign language books
- d. Learning Ally
- e. NFB Newslines
- f. Public library audio books
- g. Other _____

11. Overall, please circle the rating you would give WTBBL, with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent."

1 2 3 4 5

For these statements, please circle "Agree," "Somewhat Agree," "Somewhat Disagree" or "Disagree."

12. WTBBL is responsive to my needs as a patron.

Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Disagree

13. WTBBL's book collection meets my expectations.

Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Disagree

14. WTBBL is innovative and continues to offer relevant services.

Agree Somewhat Agree Somewhat Disagree Disagree

Please complete these statements:

15. WTBBL is doing well at _____

16. WTBBL could be better if _____

OPTIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

What is your age? _____

What is your gender?

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Non-binary
- d. Decline to answer

Are you a Military Veteran? Yes No

What is your ZIP code? _____

Which disability best describes why you use WTBBL? Please circle one.

- a. Blind
- b. Visually impaired
- c. Deaf-blind
- d. Reading disabled
- e. Physically disabled
- f. Multiple disabilities
- g. Other _____

How long have you been a WTBBL Patron? Please circle one.

- a. Less than one year
- b. 1-5 years
- c. 6-10 years
- d. 11-15 years
- e. Over 16 years



Readers' Advisor Shannon will lead the Book Club

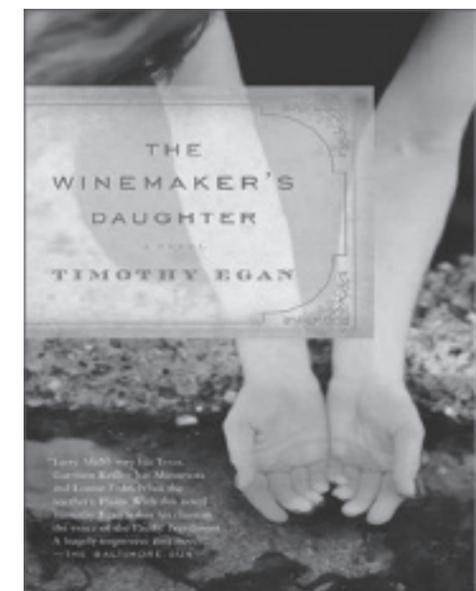
betrayal set in the inland Northwest." Brunella Cartolano, an ecologist, is battling the corporate development of Seattle's waterfront as well as the drought devastating her family's vineyard in Eastern Washington. When Brunella's brother disappears in a smoke-jumping accident, she not only must solve the mystery of his disappearance but deal with the competing interests of those wanting to exploit the state's water supply. *The Winemaker's Daughter* is an exciting, detailed portrait of the Pacific Northwest.

The WTBBL Book Club is a fun, entertaining and lively discussion of a book by a Northwest author or with Northwest interest. The titles we read will be available in audio and braille, both on BARD or for you to order from the library.

Let us know if you would like to participate so we can contact you with any updates or schedule changes. You can request a copy of the book or let us know you will join us by calling (800) 542-0866 or emailing wtbbl@sos.wa.gov. We look forward to talking about books with you!

The next Book Club meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 2 to 3 p.m. Patrons can participate by telephone using our free conference-call service. You can join the discussion by calling (800) 920-7487, participant code 39258344#.

We will read *The Winemaker's Daughter* by Timothy Egan (in audiobook as DBC 7080 and in braille as BRC 653). Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Egan's novel is "a story of wine, love, fire and



NEW BOOKS IN BRAILLE

BY ED GODFREY

WTBBL's Braille Production Department and its volunteers have been working hard to make more locally produced books available to our patrons. Here are some of the latest titles:

BRW 8680 *The 7th Canon* by Robert Dugoni.

Since passing the bar three years ago, San Francisco attorney Peter Donley has worked for his Uncle Lou. The day Lou is asked to represent a priest accused of murder and pedophilia, he has a stroke. Taking over the distasteful case quickly puts Donley in danger. Violence and some strong language. 2016. Transcribed by Gail Viscione.

BRW 8688 *Solar Reboot* by Matthew D. Hunt.

Alex Robinson has prepared for disasters by having a well-stocked cabin in Washington state. Too bad he's in Manhattan when violent solar flares cause society to collapse. Now he has to cross the country with his diabetic daughter Piper. It's not safe out there. Some violence and strong language. 2017. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

BRW 1454 *A Time to Dance* by Padma Venkatraman.

Veda, a classical-dance prodigy, lives and breathes dance, yet when an accident leaves her a below-knee amputee, her dreams are shattered. But Veda refuses to let her disability rob her of her dreams. Instead, she reconnects with the world around her, and begins to discover who she is and what

dance truly means to her. For senior-high readers. 2015. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

BRW 8708 *A Heart in a Body in the World* by Deb Caletti.

Followed by Grandpa Ed in his RV and backed by her brother and friends, eighteen-year-old Annabelle impulsively decides to run from Seattle to Washington, DC. She becomes a reluctant activist as people connect her journey to a traumatic event. For senior-high and older readers. 2018. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

The *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling is now available in UEB:

BRW 8717 *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone: #1*

On Harry Potter's 11th birthday, he learns that he is more than an unwanted orphan. The Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry recruits him because he has inherent magical abilities. As he purchases his school supplies – robes, wand, and messenger owl – Harry looks forward to attending his new boarding school. For grades 4-7. Bestseller. 1998.

BRW 8718 *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets: #2*

Despite a warning not to return to Hogwarts for his second year of wizardry studies, Harry shows up. But he is in

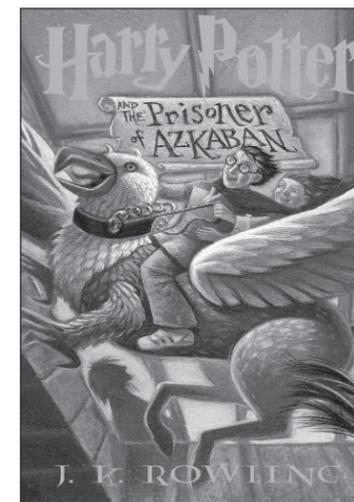
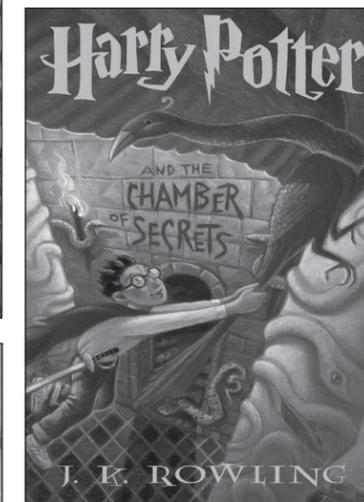
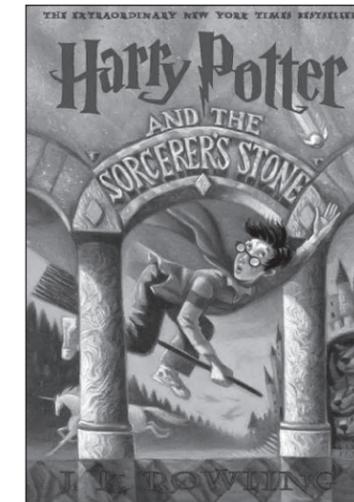
danger from the opened Chamber of Secrets as well as from his would-be protector. Sequel to *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (BRW 8717). For grades 4-7. Bestseller. 1999.

BRW 8719 *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban: #3*

Harry is relieved to be back at Hogwarts for his third year with his friends Ron and Hermione even though he isn't completely safe. The escaped convict Sirius Black, a staunch supporter of Voldemort, is after Harry. Sequel to *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (BRW 8718). For grades 4-7. Bestseller. 1999.

BRW 8720 *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire: #4*

Now 14, the student wizard is eager to leave the Dursleys and join his friends Hermione and Ron for the Quidditch World Cup before beginning his fourth year at Hogwarts. But his enemies have not forgotten him. Sequel to *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (BRW 8719). For grades 4-7. Bestseller. 2000.



Harry Potter books 1 through 4

Thank You to Our Donors from June 1 to Aug. 31, 2020

Thank you to all our donors, patrons, and champions. This year has been challenging for all of us, and we appreciate the amazing support we've received from all of you. Our annual campaign is just starting, and we hope you'll consider donating to WTBBL this year. Please look for our letter in the mail in the coming weeks. Every donation is appreciated, no matter the amount, and helps us better serve you. You can send a check to: WTBBL, 2021 9th Ave., Seattle, WA 98121-2783, or you can give securely online at www.wtbbl.org.

Geraldine & Milton Aarons	Georgia & Joseph Chiarella	Joy Fletcher Deborah Flores	Sherry Hopkins Kathleen Howard
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Penelope Bridgeman	Mary Louise DiJulio	Richard Griffiths	Jan Kiaer
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Kathleen Law	Sheri Nelson	Mariya Sirotnikova	Norma Zylstra
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Dorothy Marks	Ann Petersen	Jewell Sullivan	Shannon Curry
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Jack Melill	Lillian Roedel	Janice & Boyd Vanderleest	
Louise Middleton	Robert Rowning	Nancy Vanlydegraf	
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Betty Miller	Beverly Ruuth	Roy Vetto	
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Nia & Neev Mukherjee	Wilma Schunke	Wilma Wiitala	
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WTBBL Summer
Reading Wrap-up!
See page 2

