

READING MATTERS

Spring 2019

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library
2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783

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

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THAT ALL MAY READ...

From the Director by Danielle Miller

We receive many notes from library patrons and family members thanking us for sending books and providing ongoing library services. Sometimes we even get notes that shine a light on the work of our volunteers, including a volunteer who brought a book to life through their wonderful narration. We love to hear from you, and we love the work we do to provide your library service. But we couldn't do it without our volunteers.

During National Volunteer Week April 7-13, we celebrated our amazing volunteers with a literary event featuring author Garth Stein (pictured on the cover with volunteers Barb and Laurie). WTBBL has volunteers in virtually every library department. In state fiscal year 2018, they contributed almost 15,000 hours. This is the equivalent of seven full-time employees. Our Audio Book Production Department has more than 80 talented narrators who make it possible for us to add over 200 new audio books to the collection each year. A critical group of 20 reviewers works in the department to help ensure the accuracy of every book.

Volunteer braille transcribers work from home, transcribing books from print to braille. The transcribers email electronic braille files to our braille coordinator, who embosses them for our volunteer braille proofreading teams. Five proofreading teams work together, with a tactile braille reader reading the braille aloud, and a monitor following along with

the print book, ensuring the braille book we produce is every bit as good as the original.

A number of volunteers work in our Shipping Department doing a wide variety of tasks, including helping with the day's circulation, inspecting returned materials, and collection maintenance projects. Shipping also benefits from regular volunteer groups through Seattle Works, members of the Delta Gamma sorority, and several corporations and organizations. They perform hands-on work in the hub of the library, helping to make sure books are getting into the hands of our patrons.

Youth Services and Readers' Services are also supported by volunteers. They help our readers' advisors enter book orders, help librarians with special cataloging or collection maintenance projects, and help prepare for storytimes and youth programs. We also benefit from the contributions of students in library and information science graduate programs as they gain experience in their chosen field.

Our volunteers are an integral part of the WTBBL team, and their work is appreciated every day. Come visit us, take a tour, and if you see a volunteer, thank them for the work they do.

State Librarian Update by Cindy Aden

Happy spring! It was a banner year for winter weather here in the Northwest, so it's exciting to feel the light as days get longer and to hear those birds chirping again.

It has also been a banner legislative session here in Olympia, with a record number of original bills introduced. There is one issue of paramount importance to the Secretary of State's office: a new State Library-Archives building proposal. The State Library-Archives building has been a dream of the Secretary of State's office for over 15 years. Archives is located in an

aging building that has leaking issues, and the library is located five miles away in a temporary building, where it has been since the 2001 Nisqually earthquake.

The public will benefit significantly from having both important resources under one roof, where the staff can realize efficiencies in how they store, maintain, and serve their collections. And everyone who is part of the State Library will benefit from having staff in a more suitable workspace. We are eagerly awaiting confirmation that the proposal for the new building has been approved by the end of the legislative session on April 28.

I want to celebrate the ongoing programs and outreach that are hallmarks of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library. I was pleased to see the library working on a plan to broaden its Braille Challenge to the eastern side of the state. While we didn't get the participation we needed for a full-scale program, as we offer in Western Washington, we are setting a precedent, and hopefully we will see eastside participation grow. Meanwhile we are planning a summer reading program with the addition of events in Yakima and Spokane.

We are also midway through installing upgrades to our Audio Book Production Department with new computers, software and recording booths that will support building our collection of locally-produced works. We are so grateful to all our audiobook volunteers who make this program happen. We have one of the biggest audio production operations of any NLS library in the country! Thanks to all of you for all you do to support WTBBL.

Youth Services News by Erin Groth

The sun is shining and WTBBL's Youth Services Department is blooming with new books, events, and programs. The Spring Pen Pal Program is underway, and Multisensory Storytime is now available twice a week. Join us on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. for Preschool Storytime with tons of

reading, STEAM activities, and sensory experiences for children ages 3-5. Storytime for children birth-3 is still held Fridays at 11 a.m. Come sing, dance, learn, and play!

Youth Librarian Erin has been a busy bee, traveling to Ellensburg for the Pacific Northwest Association for Education and Rehabilitation Conference in March and presenting a short session on Accessible Escape Rooms for teens and tweens. Be on the lookout for more accessible puzzling programs for our older youth patrons, coming soon.

Summer Reading is just around the corner. This year's theme is *A Universe of Stories*, so get ready to travel the galaxy with WTBBL! Not only will we provide the program by mail for early learners, children, and teens, but we will also be holding space-themed summer events in Seattle, Yakima, and Spokane. Stay tuned for more information!

There's so much happening in the Youth Services Department, so stay up-to-date by subscribing to our monthly email, *DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter*. Contact Youth Librarian Erin at erin.groth@sos.wa.gov or (206) 615-1253 to be put on the list!

New Audio Books from WTBBL by John Pai

With the longer days and warmer temperatures we mark the change of season with a listing of newly-available titles here at the Audio Book Production Department. We again include a good mixture of fiction and nonfiction for readers of all ages.

For adult readers:

DBC 387 *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* by David Laskin.

Traces the history of the 20th century through the story of an extraordinary Jewish family, recounting how the author's 19th-century

ancestors were separated by period upheavals in western Russia and went on to become the founders of the Maidenform Bra Company, pioneers in the contentious birth of Israel, and victims of the Holocaust. 2013. Narrated by Camille Blanchette.

For young adults:

DBC 6815 *Nora and Kettle: A Paper Stars Novel* by Lauren Nicole Taylor.

World War II is over, but community emotions toward Japanese Americans still run high, and two very different teens are struggling to live in the aftermath. Seventeen-year-old Kettle has been an orphan living on the streets for years, working the docks when he can and trying to care for other street children alongside his brother, Kin. Nora, on the other hand, is the daughter of a wealthy, big-name civil rights lawyer, but that does not protect her from his violent beatings behind closed doors. Existing side by side without knowing it, Kettle and Nora's paths cross one night, and suddenly everything changes. 2015. Narrated by Tara Kearns.

And for very young readers:

DBC 6756 *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca and Daniel Rieley.

Meet Dr. Temple Grandin — one of the world's quirkiest science heroes! When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe! 2017. Narrated by Joanna Whitney.

New Braille at WTBBL 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 1419 *The Rescue of Belle and Sundance* by Birgit Stutz and Lawrence Scanlan.

Two horses are stranded on treacherous mountain terrain in the Canadian Rockies. Their plight galvanizes the small town of McBride, British Columbia, and the ensuing rescue effort is the focus of this moving book. 2012. Transcribed by Randi Aiken.

BRW 1445 *Wolves in the Land of Salmon* by David Moskowitz.

The wolf's relationship with humans is complex and can be emotionally wrought, depending on whether one is a hunter, rancher, or animal lover. *Wolves in the Land of Salmon* uses imagery and a sense of wonder to bring the text alive and help the reader understand exactly what it means to be a wolf. It sheds light on the psychological power wolves have across cultures and generations, making this a true wilderness adventure. 2013. Transcribed by Gail Viscione.

BRW 1447 *No Room of Her Own* by Desiree Hellegers.

Based on interviews done in Seattle, this oral history collection tells the stories of 15 women who have all been homeless. The stories are set throughout the United States and span two decades. Included are accounts of living in the South at the tail end of Jim Crow laws, growing up gay and black in the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s, and surviving childhood abuse in Kentucky. Some violence and strong language. 2011. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

For young adults:

BRW 8667 *Betty Before X* by Ilyasah Shabazz.

Raised by her aunt until she is seven, Betty, who will later marry Malcolm X, joins her mother and stepfamily in 1940s Detroit, where she learns about the civil rights movement. For grades 4-7. 2018. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

And finally, for very young readers:

BRW 8666 *Three Bears of the Pacific Northwest* by Marcia K. Vaughan.

When a teddy bear falls out of the RV he was traveling in with his boy, Black Bear, Brown Bear and other creatures in the Pacific Northwest mountains and forests help him find his way back home. For preschool to grade 2. 2011. Transcribed by Mary Forster.

Volunteer Spotlight: Braille Transcribers and Proofreading Teams

Among the 200 volunteers who work with WTBBL throughout the year, the most specialized include our braille transcribers and proofreading teams.

Here's how braille production at WTBBL works: Librarians at WTBBL select books written by Pacific Northwest authors or books set in, or about the Pacific Northwest to add to the collection. The books are transcribed from print into braille by offsite volunteers using software provided by the library. When transcribers complete a book, they email the electronic braille file to the braille coordinator at WTBBL, who embosses the book for proofreading. Proofreading teams comprised of a tactile braille reader and a sighted monitor (called a "copyholder") review the transcribers' work to ensure accuracy against the original print book.

Not only does braille transcription and proofreading require the ability to read braille, but it requires an excellent knowledge of the literary braille code, above-average grammar and spelling skills, and a high level of technical skills. Twice a year our braille staff and volunteers meet to review

best practices in a three-hour training session. On April 6, the braille staff hosted their most recent training with great success. There were lots of snacks, coffee and laughter!

Between November 2018 and March 2019, 75 new braille books were produced. We couldn't do this without our exceptionally dedicated volunteers!

**Thank You to Our Donors
from November 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019!**

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