

READING MATTERS

Fall
2019



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783

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That All May Read

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY DANIELLE MILLER



Danielle Miller
and Cindy Aden

Fall is my favorite time of year. It is when I am able to see so many WTBBL patrons at the Washington Council of the Blind and the National Federation of the Blind of Washington annual conventions. Reconnecting with old friends, meeting people in person for the first time, and talking about how their library service is going and plans for the future is a highlight of the season.

Fall is also full of change and activity. On Oct. 1, the National Library Service (NLS) changed their name to the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. NLS Director Karen Keninger said, "We are very pleased to share our new name and graphic identity with our NLS community and feel that the new name, as with all of NLS's work, puts the emphasis on the people we serve." You can learn more about the name change at loc.gov/nls.

WTBBL has been actively connecting with the community. Our semi-monthly low vision yoga class continued to grow in size and we offered several special programs. We had librarians from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region, give a great presentation on "Health Information You Can Trust," including recommended consumer health resources and tips for website evaluation. Conservation biologist Thor Hanson spoke about his work and his writing, including his award-winning books *Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle* and *Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees*. Keiko Namekata taught what we hope was the first of many "Touch of Braille" workshops introducing the braille system, providing an historical overview, and sharing ways braille can be useful in our daily lives. And our Audio Book Production Department again produced the state voters' pamphlet, helping to ensure access to information and participation in Washington elections.

Enjoy the crisp weather, have a wonderful holiday season, and watch for our recommended reads email to be sure you have a new book to curl up with and read.

On the cover: WTBBL director Danielle talks with library patron Quincy at the Washington Council of the Blind convention in October.

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

STATE LIBRARIAN UPDATE

BY CINDY ADEN

It's hard to believe it is already fall. The year has been flying by!

If you read the summer edition of Reading Matters, you may recall lawmakers approved a funding plan during the 2019 session to construct a new state Library-Archives Building. The building would be located just a mile from the current State Library location in Tumwater. Since gaining legislative approval, the Office of the Secretary of State has been working with architects, who built a similar state-of-the-art facility in Alaska, on building plans. In fact, some staff had the opportunity to tour the Library, Archives, and Museum building with the architectural team. It has been helpful to hear about the successes — and shortcomings — of this beautiful three-year-old building as we work to finalize details for our very own facility.

On another note, we continue working to find ways to improve services for our library patrons. Federal funding plays a major role in our ability to provide

meaningful programs, as well maintain operations. WTBBBL receives about one-third of its funding from the annual allocation granted to the Washington State Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). For the past 15 years, funding has remained steady. However, the latest projection suggests we may see as much as a \$2 million increase. While not as much as we would like to see, we are excited about these additional funds and appreciate the ongoing support from our federal partners.

If you like the services and programs provided at WTBBBL and would like to see them continue, I encourage you to reach out to your representatives and senators in Congress to advocate for the ongoing renewal of IMLS funding and to let them know how important WTBBBL's services are to you.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Thank you, as always, for your support of WTBBBL.

It's not too late to participate
in our annual giving campaign!
Visit wtbbl.org to donate today!

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THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS COMING SOON



Greetings,

Every 10 years, as required by the United States Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau takes a complete count of the country's population. The Census Bureau collects data for statistical purposes only, and is required by law to protect your individual identity.

Everyone living in the U.S. is expected to participate, and doing so can make a difference in shaping our future:

- Congress uses the information to distribute more than \$880 billion per year in federal funds and grants. Responding to the census will help ensure your community receives the resources it needs to maintain and provide critical infrastructure and other essential programs.

- The results could affect your representation. Census data determines how many seats in Congress each state gets, and is used by Washington's bipartisan redistricting commission to draw new, equally populated legislative and congressional districts.

- The census is a historical record. Dating back to 1790, the Census has been providing statistical data to better inform future generations. By completing the census, you are helping write history.

The Census Bureau will begin collecting information in March 2020. You can respond online, by mail, by phone, or with an in-person interview.

Remember, everyone counts! Be sure to complete the official questionnaire for each person in your household. For questions or more information, visit 2020census.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Wyman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kim Wyman
Washington Secretary of State



YOUTH SERVICES NEWS

BY ERIN GROTH

After a whirlwind summer, we are ready to face the new school year with pen pals, Braille Challenges, and other special events. Here's a look back at the last few months, with the promise of more to come!

Our Summer Reading Program, *A Universe of Stories*, was a huge hit with youth patrons in the Early Learning, Children, and Teen categories. We had more teens participate this year than ever before! Weekly activity packets and awesome in-person events made for an exceptional summer. If you couldn't make it out to the Spokane Public Library for accessible escape rooms, to the Yakima Arboretum for the multisensory nature walk, or to the UW Planetarium for hands-on astronomy, don't worry! We are busy planning more special events around the state and hope to see you there.

It wasn't all about reaching for the stars, however. WTBBL's youth programming took a trip in October to the Washington Council of the Blind annual convention and held a special escape room for teens in attendance. We also collaborated with the Seattle-based Jack Straw Cultural Center for our yearly Spooktacular Halloween party, where guests made spooky recordings and ghastly Plasticine monsters. The fun never ends here at WTBBL.

In other news, the Youth Services Department is working on increasing the number of large-print materials for middle and high school students. Be on the lookout for new releases available soon. We are also

working with our wonderful Braille Department to update the collection from English Braille American Edition to Unified English Braille. Be sure to download the *Harry Potter* series as they are finished and uploaded to BARD!

Lastly, our Friday multisensory storytimes have become so popular that we are now offering two inclusive sessions, one at 11 a.m. and one at 2:30 p.m. Space is limited with group size capped at 15 children ages birth to 5, so call ahead if you'd like to participate.

Be sure to subscribe to *DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter* via the link on the Youth Services page of the library's website for more information on the goings-on at WTBBL!



Exploring tactile models of the sun and solar flares at UW Planetarium

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NEW AUDIO BOOKS FROM WTBBL

BY JOHN PAI

Autumn is here in the Northwest and with the impending grey skies comes the crisp, cool air and what for many is the beginning of a new cycle. Newly uploaded audio books available for these cooler months include a couple of titles definitely designed to carry you through the winter:

DBC 234 *Beating Seattle's Grey: Living in Indoor Twilight* by Heather McAuliffe.

Seattle's overcast skies and short winter days are typically blamed for people catching the "winter blues" (Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD). Our indoor lifestyle is likely the culprit instead, and may in fact be contributing to depression year round. The book offers detailed suggestions on how to reduce depression from an indoor lifestyle by adding more light, negative ions, and color. 2015. Narrated by Elizabeth Gould.

DBC 6817 *A Year Right Here: Adventures with Food and Family in the Great Nearby* by Jess Thomason.

Jess Thomson, a Seattle food writer, describes a year of food-related travel through the Pacific Northwest. One of her goals was to find food her young son, a picky eater with cerebral palsy, would like. Another goal was to survive long bike rides. Includes recipes. 2017. Narrated by Melissa Tyler.

For murder-mystery fans, we have added a couple of new authors to our service

creating some promising new series in the classic genre stylings.

DBC 15571 *Trouble in Rooster Paradise* by T. W. Emory.

In 1950, Seattle was a blue collar town and Gunnar Nilson was the kind of private eye people went to when they didn't want the cops involved. It was after midnight when the cops wanted to talk to him after his card was found on a dead woman in a Ballard alley. 2015. Narrated by Michael Memmo.

DBC 182 *Design for Dying* by Renee Patrick.

Hollywood, 1937. Lillian Frost went to Hollywood to be a star, but ended up as a department store salesgirl. When her former roommate is murdered while wearing clothing stolen from Paramount Pictures, Lillian joins forces with Edith Head, who went on to win eight Oscars for costume design, to solve the crime. 2016. Narrated by M.E. Kintzi.

Of course, we do have something for all the history buffs out there:

DBC 6921 *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place* by Coll Thrush.

Native Americans greeted the settlers who founded Seattle, and have been part of the fabric of the city ever since. The author uses Native American oral traditions and place names to show how they viewed the land and adapted to

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urbanization, particularly in contrast to the traditional history book. 2007. Narrated by John Ogliore.

DBC 6916 *The Western Flyer: Steinbeck's Boat, the Sea of Cortez, and the Saga of Pacific Fisheries* by Kevin McLean Bailey.

The Western Flyer was a fishing boat that won literary fame by being featured in John Steinbeck's *The Sea of Cortez* in 1940. It remained a working fishing boat in fisheries along the Pacific coast. Its fortunes declined along with the fisheries as they collapsed. 2015. Narrated by Barb Scamman.

For the young adult and elementary school-age readers, we have a few great titles available:

DBC 15713 *The Girl Who Wouldn't Die* by Randall Beth Platt.

It's 1939 in Poland, and Arab knows that standing up for anyone (especially her Jewish family) only paints a target on her back. So she plans to survive the Nazi occupation the way she always has: disguise herself as an Aryan boy, lead her street gang, and sell whatever she can steal. 2017. Narrated by Amy Osowski.

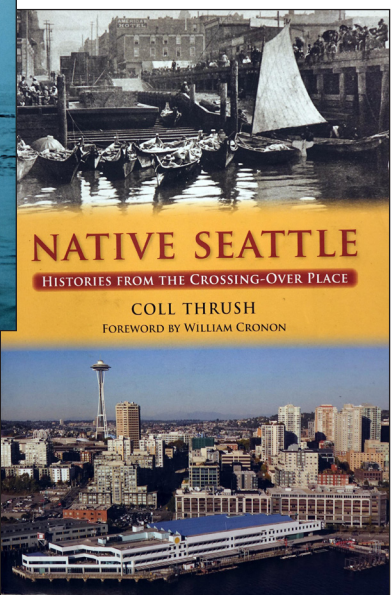
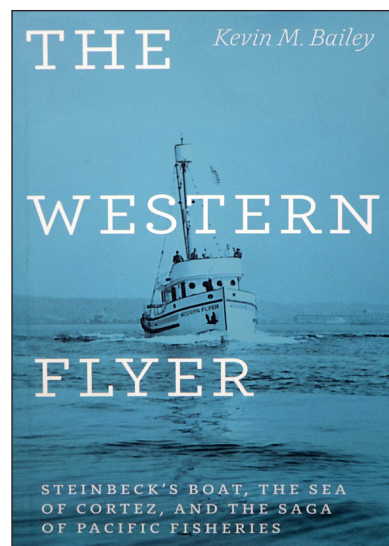
DBC 15738 *Dumpling Dreams: How Joyce Chen Brought the Dumpling from Beijing to Cambridge* by Carrie Crickard.

Rhyming text tells the story of Jia (Joyce) Chen and her family's journey from China to the United States in this illustrated biography. One of America's

most famous immigrants and chefs, Joyce Chen used dumplings (among other delicious foods) to introduce Chinese culture to the American palate. 2017. Narrated by Sherry Yang.

DBC 15744 *Hazel and Twig: The Birthday Fortune* by Brenna Burns Yu.

Twig's first birthday is coming up, and her whole family (especially her older sister, Hazel) is eager to see what she will choose at her *doljabi*. Whatever item Twig chooses will tell her fortune, but what will she pick? Readers will learn about the Korean tradition of *doljabi* through this charming story of a family of rabbits. 2018. Narrated by Sherry Yang.



NEW BRAILLE BOOKS FROM 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 for adults this fall:

BRW 8694 *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. 1998. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

BRW 8648 *Seattle City of Literature: Reflections from a Community of Writers* edited by Ryan Boudinot.

Passionate, irreverent; these brief essays by Seattle writers, poets, and publishers touch on all aspects of the Seattle's literary scene. Writing, publishing, public readings and writers' workshops all get their due. Some strong language. 2015. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

BRW 8650 *Midnight in Broad Daylight: A Japanese American Family Caught Between Two Worlds* by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto.

A riveting chronicle of U.S.-Japan relations and of the Japanese experience in America, *Midnight in Broad Daylight* is the true story of a Japanese American family that found itself on opposite sides during World War II. 2016. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

For younger readers:

The Faerie Ring Series by Kiki Hamilton.

The year is 1871 and Tiki has made a home for herself and her band of orphans in a hideaway adjoining London's Charing Cross Station. The only way to survive is to pick pockets. One night, Tiki steals a ring with ancient powers, which sets off a chain of events that threatens to lead to war with the Fey. For grades 6-9. *The Faerie Ring Series* includes: *The Faerie Ring* BRW 1403, *The Torn Wing* BRW 8669, *The Seven Year King* BRW 8675, and the final book *The Faerie Queen* BRW 8676. 2011-2014. Transcribed by Gail Viscione.



And finally, for very young readers:

BRJ 1461 *Why Do I Sing: Animal Songs of the Pacific Northwest* by Jennifer Blomgren.

Rhyming stanzas imagine what 14 different Northwest creatures might be saying, from the call of a spotted owl above treetops at night, to the buzzing of honeybees in summer, to the songs of fin whales in the ocean. For preschool-grade 2. 2013. Transcribed by Ed Godfrey.

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WTBBL HOSTS YOGA CLASSES

Did you know WTBBL hosts a yoga class at the library the first and third Tuesdays of every month? All are welcome and we hope you will join us if you live or work near WTBBL, or visit the Seattle area. This slow vinyasa class lets yogis settle into and feel the poses in their bodies, most which are standing poses.

The class is taught by Alice Graden, a 200-hour registered yoga teacher and founder of Blind and Low Vision Yoga Seattle. When she is not on her mat,

she is the program coordinator for the independent living program through the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind. Her passion for yoga and her profession led her to notice that there are minimal opportunities for individuals who are blind or have low vision to practice yoga.

The 60-minute class is free and begins at 9 a.m. Please call the library at (206) 615-0400 for more information.



Instructor Alice (right) guides a modified revolved crescent lunge

Three yogis in a reverse triangle pose



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON WTBBL'S

Over the past three years WTBBL has been growing its team of native Spanish speakers to narrate books that focus on the Hispanic experience in the Northwest. We welcome our three newest volunteers!



Aida

Aida Hidalgo

I learned about WTBBL while volunteering at the Mexican Consulate Ventanilla de Salud program. I met Rocío Vargas at her outreach table, where she told me about WTBBL services to readers who are visually or physically impaired. I am passionate about helping underserved populations and I strongly support organizations that promote access, inclusion, and equity.

Upon passing my audition and training as an audiobook narrator in Spanish, I recorded a Dora the Explorer book for children, and I'm now working on *La Última Oportunidad* (*The Last Opportunity*, a novel on personal and marital improvement) from Mexican author Carlos Cuauhtémoc Sánchez. I thoroughly enjoy the recording sessions and my time in the library, as staff, patrons, and volunteers are all very nice and there is a friendly sense of community. However, being able to help and support people in need within my own community is the most rewarding experience.

Lizeth Caldera

My name is Lizeth, and I am from Guadalajara, Mexico. In April 2019, I started volunteering as a Spanish audiobook narrator at WTBBL.

I have always found it exciting to express myself using only my voice. Back in Mexico, I used to be a radio broadcaster and started at an early age on a kid's show where I shared the microphone with other young people.

Even now, I am still active at a Mexican radio show here in Seattle. That is why when I learned about being a Spanish narrator, I did not hesitate to volunteer. I felt welcomed since the beginning. Everyone at WTBBL is lovely and cheerful. John, David, and the rest of the team are always there to help and answer my questions.

SPANISH PROGRAM NARRATORS



Lizeth

Andrea García

My name is Andrea García. I'm from Mexico and currently volunteering at WTBBL in the Audio Book Production Department where I narrate and review Spanish-language books.

I started in May 2019 after Liz told me to audition. I was really happy and excited when I knew I got picked to record my first book. My book is *Carmilla, Historia de Vampiros* by Joseph Sheridan LeFanu.

It's really nice doing something like recording a book, because when you think about it, many people without sight

will be able to begin the beautiful journey that only books are able to give, using only your voice and tone to send their imagination far, far away.

On the other hand, being able to review a book that's already been recorded is really fun too! I'm a person that loves to read and, while I'm recording or reviewing, I get to read a new book and help others to read them too. There's nothing better than that, helping while you do something you really love.

So I will always tell people who love to read to try volunteering at WTBBL, because this is a great experience that you can't get anywhere else!



Andrea

Thank You to Our Donors from July 1 to October 31, 2019

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Washington State Library



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