

READING MATTERS

Winter
2020



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



There were many improvements made to the WTBBL facility in 2019 and we would love to have you visit, tour the library, and pick up a new book. Our service is statewide, however, and we do all we can to recognize current and potential readers outside Seattle. To that end, we continue our outreach efforts and travel throughout Washington. We created a new rack card featuring one of our patrons and the tagline, "Listening is Reading." The rack card will be distributed to organizations throughout the state. Library staff also attend many conferences, health fairs, and other events statewide to share information about WTBBL. We look forward to seeing many of you during our travels.

These past months, we have been in the process of completing our transition to

new recording and editing software in our Audio Book Production Department. This is a major project as it not only includes work for the staff with new hardware and software, but it involves the training of over 100 volunteer narrators and reviewers. The new software will work very well for us and the change has allowed us to invest more resources in upgrading hardware audio equipment, and add two additional recording studios. Everyone is very enthusiastic about the transition and we continue to produce more great local books for you to read and enjoy.

Later this year, WTBBL will be launching a quarterly book club that patrons will be able to participate in remotely by phone or in person at the library. We hope you will join us. Please watch for details in the next issue of Reading Matters and on the WTBBL email list and social media. In addition to our Facebook page and Instagram, WTBBL is now on Twitter @_WTBBL_. Stay connected with the library to see all the great things that are happening, new books being produced, staff and volunteer spotlights, and more. You can find links to all WTBBL social media on our website, wtbbl.org.

Be in touch and be well.

On the cover: WTBBL outreach librarian Amy shows off our new rack cards.

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

STATE LIBRARIAN UPDATE

BY CINDY ADEN



We are well into 2020 and it promises to be a lively year. It is a short year for the state Legislature, with the session starting January 13 and expecting to end on time on March 12. As a result of legislation passed last year, the state of Washington will be conducting a presidential primary election earlier in the year on March 10. WTBBL has been working with the Elections Division on providing audio voter pamphlets, which will continue to be such an important service, especially in this presidential election year.

Washington state races are equally important, with a number of significant statewide and legislative seats up for election. I hope that you will use your local library — WTBBL or otherwise — as a trusted resource to stay informed of the issues.

We are working on plans for more effective fundraising this year by highlighting the programs and services of the State Library, WTBBL, and Institutional Library Services. This is the second year for the Library Giving Day campaign, which was launched in 2019 by the Seattle Public Library Foundation as a way to help smaller libraries with messaging about charitable gifts. Stay tuned for more information. Library Giving Day is April 23, so we hope to start our campaign in earnest by mid-March.

WTBBL continues to be a trailblazer. We are so proud of our new Braillo embosser, allowing us to be even more responsive in creating needed braille materials. We have purchased new software for our Audio Book Production Department so we can continue to work with our amazing volunteers to have one of the most successful local recording programs in the National Library Service network. There is always something new at WTBBL!

Have a lovely transition from winter to early spring and keep us in your thoughts as Library Giving Day arrives.

Thank you for all you do.

YOUTH SERVICES NEWS

BY ERIN GROTH



Braille Challenge participant

The new year is off to an exciting start in the Youth Services Department! With the Eastern Washington Braille Challenge in Cheney completed on February 1, we look forward to the second of our regional competitions February 22 in Seattle at WTBBL. Braille-reading students in grades 1-12 will compete in a variety of categories for prizes, glory, and a chance to receive a free trip to the Braille Institute in Los Angeles to participate in the finals this June. Non-braille-readers and other interested people are still welcome to attend the event, with fun activities like martial arts training for the blind and visually impaired and a free pizza lunch. Please visit wtbbl.org/youth.aspx for more information on this exciting event.

Spring is just around the corner, and with that comes another round of the Pen Pals. This always-popular program offers the opportunity for kids across Washington to make a friend by writing letters in large print or braille. Keep an eye out for information on how to register coming soon.

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is in full effect, and just had their first virtual meeting in January. Middle- and high-school students joined together to discuss an upcoming art installation at WTBBL, as well as plans to attend the 2020 Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council Action Day, and gave input on a new teen health resources guide being developed by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine and the Washington State Library. If you'd like to become a member of the TAB, please contact me at erin.groth@sos.wa.gov or (206) 615-1253 for more information.

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

NEW AUDIO BOOKS FROM WTBBL

BY JOHN PAI

We have not only arrived at a new year but also a new decade, and there is much to celebrate. WTBBL has some great new audio titles available to carry us forward to the early days of spring!

DBC 6991 *Winter Sisters* by Robin Oliveira. Albany, New York, 1879. In the wake of a massive blizzard, two young girls, orphaned by the storm, disappear. Dr. Mary Stipp and her family do everything they can to find them. When they are found weeks later, it's clear they were kidnapped and abused, but the city is shocked by the outcome of the trial. 2018. Narrated by Ros Wilkes.

DBC 6993 *Damage Control* by Robert Dugoni.
Seattle attorney Dana Hill had a good life until she was diagnosed with cancer and her brother was murdered. Then her life became dangerous when she started to help Detective Michael Logan find her brother's killer and the reason for it. 2007. Narrated by Mary Schlosser.

DBC 6953 *When Money Grew on Trees: A.B. Hammond and the Age of the Timber Baron* by Greg Gordon.
When Andrew Hammond moved from Maine, where he had worked as a lumberjack, to the Northwest he saw his opportunities and took them. He eventually founded the Hammond Lumber Company and turned it into a successful corporation.

He left a legacy of clearcuts, company towns, and bitter fights with unions. 2014. Narrated by Dawson Nichols.

For younger readers, we have several titles to stimulate the mind and honor the past:

DBC 6792 *My Seneca Village* by Marilyn Nelson.

In New York City, starting in 1825 and lasting for about 30 years, a group of African Americans and immigrants created a thriving community called Seneca Village. It was razed when Central Park was created later in that century. The poet Marilyn Nelson explores the community of inhabitants. 2015. Narrated by Halo Summerlin.

DBC 6750 *The Revolution of Evelyn Serrano* by Sonia Manzano.

It is 1969 in Spanish Harlem, and fourteen-year-old Evelyn Serrano is trying hard to break free from her conservative Puerto Rican surroundings. But when her activist grandmother comes to stay and the neighborhood protests start, things get a lot more complicated — and dangerous. 2012. Narrated by Angelica Murillo.

There are always new locally produced books available, so give us a call to order and enjoy them!

NEW BRAILLE BOOKS FROM WTBBL

BY ED GODFREY

Thanks to our volunteer transcribers and proofreading teams for making more locally produced books available to our patrons! Here are some of the latest titles:

For adult readers:

BRW 8691 *21 Dog Years: A Cube Dweller's Tale* by Mike Daisey.

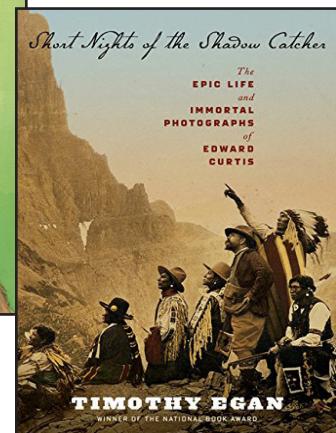
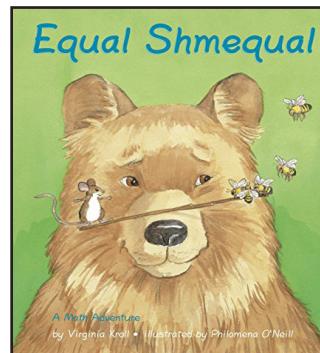
Working at a dot.com, even the biggest dot.com, may seem exciting until you find yourself in a cubicle. Mike Daisey made it through three years at Amazon with the stories to prove it. Some strong language. 2003. Transcribed by Karen Hara.

BRW 1416 *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis* by Timothy Egan.

Biography of Seattle photographer Edward Curtis (1868-1952), who in 1900 became enamored with Native American culture. Sponsored by J.P. Morgan, Theodore Roosevelt, and others, Curtis spent three decades living with different tribes, creating films, and producing the twenty-volume publication *The North American Indian*. Discusses Curtis's legacy. National Book Award. 2012. Transcribed by Mary Forster.

BRW 8679 *The Ocean in My Ears* by Meagan Macvie.

Meri is trying to live life to the fullest in her small Alaskan town. But with a complicated crush, her grandmother becoming ill, and



very religious parents, it all seems like it might be too much. All Meri wants to do is get out of the small town — and go to New York — but is she really ready for the world beyond her backyard? For junior and senior high school readers. Descriptions of sex and strong language. 2017. Transcribed by Joan Moritz.

For younger readers:

BRW 8665 *Equal Shmequal* by Virginia Kroll. In order to have fun at a game of tug-of-war, forest animals balance teams using a see-saw. Includes nonfiction math notes for meanings of "equal." For grades K-3. 2005. Transcribed by Ed Godfrey.

BRW 8685 / BRJ 1518 *Lizbeth Lou Got a Rock in Her Shoe* by Troy Howell.

Rhyming text tells the story of a small rock's adventure, as it is pushed, pulled, tossed, and stuck to many different people and animals in town. For Kindergarten and older. 2016. Transcribed by Ed Godfrey.

OUTREACH TO SENIORS

BY AMY RAVENHOLT

When I do outreach to potential patrons over 50, I feel like a social worker half the time and a salesperson the other half. This idea was planted by an elderly patron in Sprague who called me her favorite book pusher. I was reminded of it by the activities director who didn't want to sign up more people for talking books because the one resident who used them would only listen to books and wouldn't come out to join in her activities. Maybe audio books are addictive, but they are a good habit and the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library trusts our patrons to use them responsibly!

Every patron is unique. There is no one right book, no one right story that pleases every reader. In my outreach travels, I find that no one approach catches everyone's attention. So we try everything:

- Information tables at health fair events (with free gifts like useful black markers that can help people with visual impairments make notes).
- Visits to assisted living and nursing home sites to speak to every activities director and any resident groups that I can.
- Offering training to any public library staff that will schedule me.
- Bookmarks and promotional materials provided to every public library branch.
- Promotional rack cards distributed to every senior center, area agency on aging

office, nursing home, and assisted living facility in the state.

At health fairs, I sometimes see people veer away from my table, like blindness may be contagious. When I talk with people with vision problems, they often tell me "I'm not bad enough yet," like having to use audio books is a punishment or admission of defeat. They are fighters and they are persevering in the face of vision loss or physical conditions that steal away the ability to read.

We puzzled over how to assure potential patrons that using talking books doesn't mean they are giving up. Our new rack card (pictured on the front cover, with special thanks to new WTBBL patron and photo model Zoila) uses the approach our patrons use when they describe the joy of talking books to their friends.

I hope you join us in spreading the word that "Listening is Reading." As a current patron, or other lover of audio books, you are an important part of our outreach when you mention how much you enjoy reading by listening. You help shift the perception of audio books from something your great-grandmother has to use to a guilty pleasure.

WTBBL'S 500 + HOUR VOLUNTEERS

BY DAVID JUNIUS

The WTBBL volunteer program has been growing stronger year after year, thanks to more than 200 volunteers who annually work over 15,000 hours in four departments. This past year, we created a new appreciation certificate to let our volunteers know that we acknowledge their time here and that WTBBL succeeds in its service because of their efforts.

Here is an honor roll for the first set of volunteers recognized:

5,000 + hours

Seattle Works (work groups in shipping)

3,000 + hours

Mary Forster (braille transcribing, braille proofreading)

Steve McCarthy (talking book machine repair, braille proofreading, talking book review)

2,000 + hours

Delta Gamma (work groups in shipping)

Rachel Glass (talking book narration)

Jay Lane (talking book narration)

H. Craig Miller (talking book machine repair)

Jim Owens (braille proofreading)

Eric Sorlien (shipping)

Gail Viscione (braille transcribing)

Jim Weston (talking book narration)

1,500 + hours

Karen Hara (braille transcribing)

Martha Oman (talking book review)

1,000 + hours

Elke Boettcher (braille proofreading)

Addi Brooks (talking book narration)

Bob Carlson (talking book narration)

Rick Lewis (braille proofreading)

Joan Moritz (braille transcribing)

Florrie Munat (talking book narration)

John Ogiore (talking book narration)

Kathy Ridderbusch (talking book review)

Mary Schlosser (talking book narration)

Fred Seidel (talking book narration)

Rick Sipe (talking book narration)

Shirley Stubben (shipping)

Stacy Thurston (braille proofreading)

Rick Zander (shipping)

Norm Zimmerman (talking book narration)

500 + hours

Camille Blanchette (talking book narration)

Holly Chaffin (talking book narration)

Marji Friedmann (talking book narration)

John Gahagan (talking book narration)

Debra Godfrey (talking book narration)

Thomas Heestand (talking book review)

Elizabeth Lopic (talking book narration)

Michael Memmo (talking book narration)

Gregg Porter (talking book narration)

Andrew Richards (shipping)

Dametries Rojas (shipping)

Deanna Sarkar (talking book narration)

Chris Snee (talking book narration)

Tom Taggart (talking book narration)

Melissa Tyler (talking book narration)

Stephen Zon (talking book review)

Kathy Ridderbusch



Rachel Glass and Norm Zimmerman



Joan Moritz



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FREE MATTER
for the Blind
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Office of the Secretary of State
Washington State Library



WTBBL produces the audio version of the March 10, 2020
Presidential Primary Voters' Pamphlet. For more information,
contact the Washington State Elections Division at (800) 448-4881.