

READING MATTERS

Winter
2022



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783

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

Phone: 206-615-0400 • Toll free: 800-542-0866

wtbbl@sos.wa.gov • www.wtbbl.org



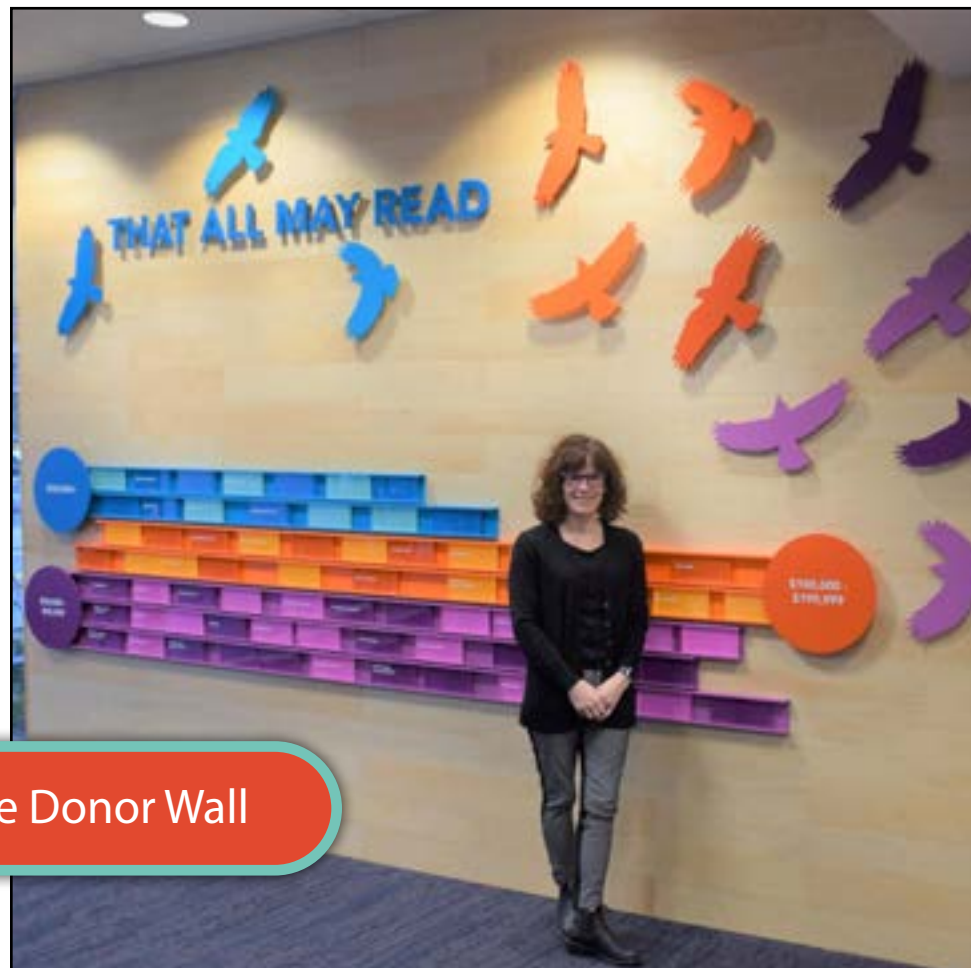
That All May Read

A new year brings new opportunities for WTBBL staff to connect with our patrons. We are always looking for more ways to reach people throughout the state with library programs. Last year, we launched a patron book club, and we were pleased with the participation. In fact, we received a request to meet more than quarterly. Starting in March, the WTBBL book club will meet every other month. Read more about it and see the list of upcoming books in this issue of *Reading Matters*.

Over the past few years we have been working with a design firm to create and

install a donor wall to recognize our past and future donors. The wall is in the public area of the library and is a beautiful installation of colored birds flying around the words, "That all may read." It features three tiers of colored acrylic blocks recognizing donors at the \$50,000 level and above. The acrylic blocks have the donor names etched in print and embossed in braille. Our donors at every level make such an incredible contribution to WTBBL's ability to serve our patrons.

Thank you all for your continued support of WTBBL, and happy reading!



Danielle at the Donor Wall



Secretary of State Steve Hobbs was appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee in fall 2021 and began his tenure Nov. 22. He is Washington's 16th Secretary of State, replacing Kim Wyman, who resigned mid-term to join the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

As head of one of the most diverse offices in state government, Secretary Hobbs is the state's chief elections officer, chief corporations officer, and supervisor of the State Archives. In addition, he oversees the Washington State Library, which includes the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library.

Prior to his appointment as Secretary of State, Hobbs was the state senator for Washington's 44th legislative district. During his tenure he served as chair of the Transportation Committee, and was a member of the Financial Institutions,

Economic Development & Trade, and Environment, Energy & Technology committees.

Hobbs adopted an expansive policy agenda that included local job creation through helping small businesses and improving transportation infrastructure. He promoted legislation to enhance government accountability, and create new and innovative approaches to strengthening education. He particularly focused on expanding high-school and college programs that prepare students for the growing demand in the high-tech industry.

Secretary Hobbs is a lieutenant colonel in the Washington Army National Guard and proudly served in Kosovo and Iraq. As state senator, he advocated for Washington state's service members and their families by drafting policies that recognize the complex needs of men and women in the military. He worked with service members to develop legislation ranging from help in education, finding good family wage jobs, and protecting veterans' rights.

Raised in a working-class family, Secretary Hobbs learned the value of hard work and education. He received his master's degree in public administration and bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Washington.



I began 2021 full of hope that COVID-19 was mostly behind us and that we could slowly return to a pre-pandemic normal. Not only did that not happen but, as we turn into 2022, we face yet another substantial challenge and all the questions about how we go about our lives. I believe that some of the most hopeful parts are the changes and adaptations WTBBBL has made while fulfilling its core service mission, "That all may read."

The program is led by such capable, resilient, and committed employees who focus on WTBBBL's core mission. They never say, "We can't because..." They always say, "We will figure it out," and they do! I want to offer my deepest gratitude to Danielle and her staff for the tremendous amount of work they accomplished despite the many challenges along the way. The programming celebrating WTBBBL's 90th anniversary was engaging and informative. We are committed to hosting an in-person celebration for this incredible milestone when it is safe to do so.

WTBBBL is a lifeline for patrons in a world where isolation and access challenges occur, even without a pandemic. Keeping services available to patrons with human contact is absolutely essential. I believe we all can agree that supporting health, well-being, and reading is not only a noble cause but an essential one.

This year also brought significant changes to the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS). Secretary Kim Wyman left in November to take a role in the Biden administration to further support election integrity and security. New Secretary Steve Hobbs was sworn in Nov. 22. Executive leadership also changed: Trova O'Heffernan, formerly the OSOS's director of Operations, became the assistant secretary of state, and Randy Bolerjack was named deputy secretary of state. Division directors changed in all but three (Washington State Library, Community Programs, and Corporations and Charities).

Along with the challenges, 2022 has new opportunities, and I look forward to our stellar programs and a deep commitment to WTBBBL's mission, "That all may read."



Washington State Library

We are feeling 2022, how about you? WTBBBL's Youth Services Department is already having a busy year. In late January we hosted the annual Regional Braille Challenge. We are also expanding the middle grade and young adult large-print collections, and planning a new YA-adult book club crossover.

Due to the pandemic, WTBBBL hosted the Braille Challenge virtually again this year. Nearly 20 students in grades 1-12 signed up to participate in this exciting competition. They showed off their braille literacy skills in proofreading, reading tactile charts and graphs, and taking speed and accuracy tests. Students from all over Washington and Oregon were mailed physical testing materials and completed the contests at home while participating in the virtual event.

Not only did our students do amazing work, but their efforts were rewarded by several awesome prize donations. The Washington Council of the Blind Families Committee graciously donated a brand new Orbit Reader 20 Refreshable Braille Display, Book Reader and Note-taker as a raffle prize. A Chameleon 20 braille eReader, courtesy of the American Printing House for the Blind's Northwest outreach specialist, was the grand prize. Congrats to all our students who participated this year, and thanks to all the volunteers and committees who helped us pull off another exciting event.

Looking forward, 2022 will bring a new round of the WTBBBL Patron Book Club, organized by Outreach Librarian Reilly Curran. This year

meetings will be held every other month. At the Sept. 28 meeting, we'll talk about the young adult book *Everything Sad is Untrue (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri (BR23597, DB101953, LP26264). We look forward to seeing high school students and adult patrons come together to discuss this awesome story, which is available in audio, braille, and large print. Hope to see you there for a thoughtful and intergenerational discussion!

Want to stay in the know and keep up to date on all things Youth Services? Remember to sign up for *DOTS: WTBBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter*, a bimonthly email bulletin. A sign-up link can be found on the Youth Services page of WTBBBL's website.

The January – February 2022 Talking Book Topics (TBT) in large print will not be available due to ongoing supply-chain issues. Patrons can access TBT online at www.loc.gov/nls/tbt, or call WTBBBL at 800-542-0866 for help with other formats.

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) is distributing refreshable braille eReaders to patrons. As part of this project, WTBBL is field-testing a 20-cell braille eReader manufactured by Zoomax.

Designed in consultation with NLS, the Zoomax eReader is a little smaller and much lighter than the talking book player. It features a Perkins-style keyboard and several navigation and function buttons. It has an SD card slot, USB-C port for power or connecting to a computer, and a USB-A port for connecting to an NLS book cartridge or a flash drive.

The eReader has an internal memory of 8 gigabytes. When charged, it has about 10 hours of battery life, which can be stretched up to 27 hours with power-saving features. It has Bluetooth and Wi-Fi capabilities, but doesn't have a web browser. Currently, the only online service offered is the NLS BARD site.

The Zoomax comes with a "Getting Started" guide and the full user guide in hard-copy braille. The complete user manual can be accessed on the eReader. To help patrons get started using the eReader, we also send a compilation cartridge with several braille books. WTBBL will get cases for the eReaders and send them out when they arrive.

We have circulated over a hundred of these eReaders so far. Part of the purpose of a field test is to identify the eReader's strengths and weaknesses. There have been some battery issues, and entering Wi-Fi or BARD passwords can be tricky. We were able to solve some problems at WTBBL; for other issues we referred people directly to NLS. Fortunately NLS has been providing prompt, excellent technical support for patrons who have reported issues. NLS also created an email list for patrons where they can share tips and information about the eReader.

We are continuing to distribute Zoomax eReaders. Email herrick.heitman@sos.wa.gov at WTBBL if you are interested in taking part in this project. I will be happy to give you more information about the eReader and have one sent to you.



Zoomax braille eReader

Winter is a great time to visit the many other worlds of audiobooks. We recently edited and uploaded several titles that can bring a little more warmth to the colder days of the season.

DBC19115 *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter. An intimate story of brotherhood, love, sacrifice, and betrayal set against the panoramic backdrop of an early 20th-century America that eerily echoes our own time, *The Cold Millions* offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of a nation grappling with the chasm between rich and poor, between harsh realities and simple dreams. Spokane author Jess Walter's most recent novel and a 2020 National Best Seller. Narrated by Michael Memmo.

DBC15900 *Growing Up Boeing: The Early Jet Age Through the Eyes of a Test Pilot's Daughter* by Rebecca Wallick. *Growing Up Boeing* gives an insider's perspective of the Boeing test pilots and engineers who regularly risked their lives testing and certifying the early commercial jets, 707s through 767s, at the dawn of the jet age. Using personal interviews of the pilots and engineers, test pilot L. "Lew" Wallick's daughter Rebecca weaves the accounts of many key individuals of this Golden Age of aviation. The book is a tapestry of aviation history and the human side of Boeing's flight test history. 2014. Narrated by Diane Novak.

DBC15898 *Blind Man's Bluff!* by Geri Taeckens. Geri Taeckens started losing her vision when she was young. She didn't handle it well.



Denial and drugs didn't make things any better, but she worked through it to acceptance and recovery. 2007. The book includes an author interview conducted by narrator M.E. Kintzi (pictured at left above, with Geri at right).

DBC15776 *Lake City* by Thomas B. Kohnstamm. Lane Bueche grew up in a trailer in the Seattle neighborhood of Lake City. He got out of there by attending college, marrying a rich woman, and moving to New York City. Now his marriage is on the rocks, his academic career is on hold, and he's back in Lake City. He hatches a plot to return to New York. 2019. Narrated by Rick Sipe.

DBC06960 *Orchard House* by Tara Austin Weaver. Tara Austen Weaver was looking for a house when she moved to Seattle. Where people would have seen a rundown house on an overgrown half acre, Tara and her mother saw the possibility of a great garden and with it some great healing. 2015. Narrated by Natalie Peterson.

2022 BIMONTHLY BOOK CLUB

BY REILLY CURRAN

We are excited to announce that our WTBBL Patron Book Club will be held bimonthly! Starting in March, the book club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. PT on the fourth Wednesday of every other month. This virtual book club reads five popular titles in a variety of genres. You'll have an opportunity to discover great new reads and get to know other readers across the state.

No registration is required. Choose the books you are interested in reading and join us. We use a platform called Zoom that enables people with a computer to join meetings simply by clicking on a link that we provide. Don't worry if you don't have a computer; you can also use your phone to join by calling in.

We have all five titles for each book club meeting available on a preloaded cartridge. If you would like us to send you a cartridge, please call me at 206-615-1783 or email wtbbl@sos.wa.gov.

Zoom link: <https://tiny.one/BookClub22>

Phone number: 206-337-9723
Meeting ID: 840 2605 1131
Passcode: 134812

March 23

Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid
BR23303, DB97929

A story about race and privilege is centered around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.
Facilitator: Reilly Curran, Outreach Librarian

May 25

Circe by Madeline Miller
BR22648, DB90711

This story follows the banished witch daughter of Titans as she hones her powers and interacts with famous mythological beings before a conflict with one of the most vengeful Olympians forces her to choose between the worlds of the gods and mortals.
Facilitator: Shannon Curry, Readers' Advisor

July 27

Naked by David Sedaris
BR23050, DB44134

The author recounts hitchhiking across the country with an odd cast of quadriplegics and deadbeats, working as a migrant worker in North Carolina, and other adventures.
Facilitator: David Junius, Volunteer Services Manager

Sept. 28

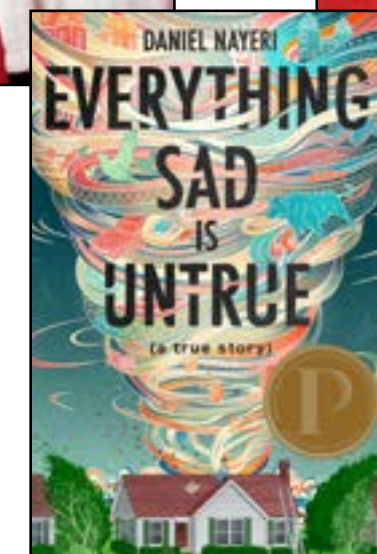
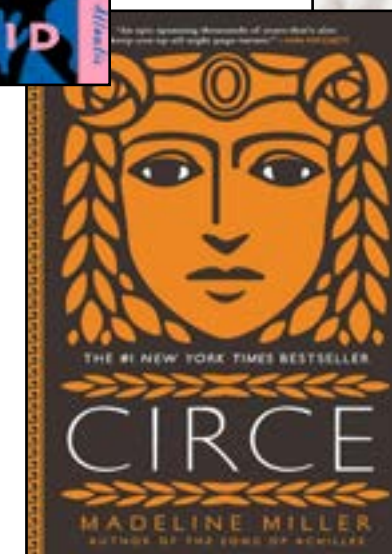
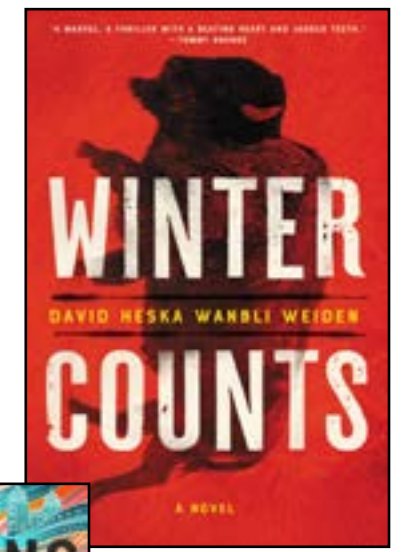
Everything Sad is Untrue (a true story)
by Daniel Nayeri

BR23597, DB101953, LP26264
At the front of a skeptical classroom in Oklahoma, young Khosrou tries to tell his story. Khosrou's stories span centuries, from the moment his family fled Iran in the middle of the night to tales set in the jasmine-scented city of Isfahan.
Facilitator: Erin Groth, Youth Services Librarian

Nov. 16

Winter Counts by David Heska Wanbli Weiden
BR23423, DB100989

A vigilante enforcer on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation enlists the help of an ex to investigate the activities of an expanding drug cartel, while a new tribal council initiative raises controversial questions.
Facilitator: Deborah Priest, Circulation and Audiobook Production Technician



DUPLICATION ON DEMAND UPDATE

BY SALLY JO HAGEN

Thank You to Our
Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021 Donors

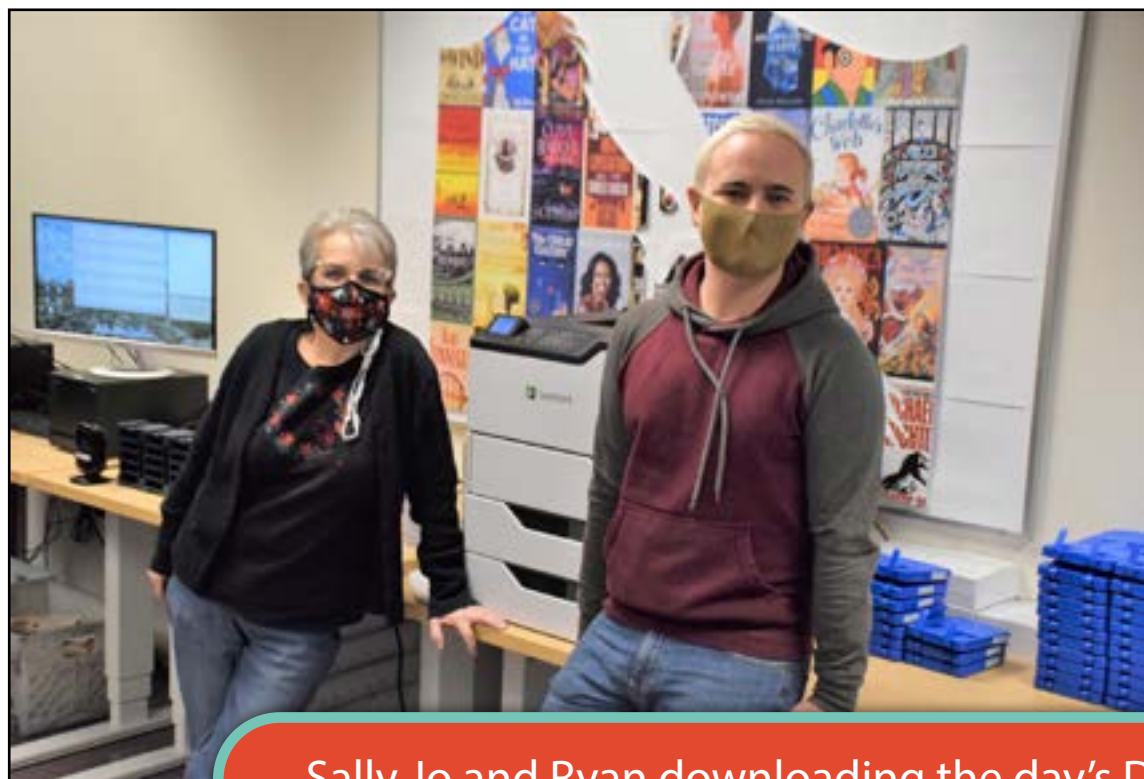
We can't believe it's been over a year since we launched our Duplication on Demand (DoD) service! In December 2020 we started creating customized cartridges with multiple books chosen from your preferences and requests. This enables us to provide you access to every book in our collection with no waiting lists.

DoD has streamlined how we process, send, and receive cartridges. Previously, we would print over 2,000 mailing cards and retrieve each individual cartridge from our warehouse shelves on a daily basis. Today we plug 40 cartridges at a time into what we call the "toaster rack." This device automatically downloads a customized selection of books on each cartridge based on your requests and preferences.

When a returned cartridge is checked in, we open the case, scan the barcode on the back of the cartridge — which erases any books on that cartridge — and set it aside to be used for future downloads.

Returning your custom book cartridge is simple. Instead of turning over the mailing card, just recycle it, as the library's address is printed on the container.

If you have any special requests or issues with your cartridges, call and speak to a Readers' Advisor at 206-615-0400 or toll free at 800-542-0866. We'd like to hear from you.



Sally Jo and Ryan downloading the day's DoDs

Did you know that many Washington state companies match donations made by their employees to a wide range of local nonprofits including WTBBL?

Gifts from employees, spouses, and retirees may also qualify for a matched donation, which could turn a \$50 gift into a \$100 gift, a \$500 gift into \$1,000, and more!
Ask your employer if they match employee gifts!

For more information, contact Laura Mott at 360-902-4171 or laura.mott@sos.wa.gov.

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Kim Wyman

Grace Yadon
Medda Zegegis
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Gladys Zink

In memory of:

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Tyler Eckles
Richard Gish
Ralph Hatlen
John McCallum
Bob Norton
Roy Peak
LoRee Taggart
Nellie Thudium

In honor of:

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