

# READING MATTERS

Summer  
2022



**WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY**

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**That All May Read**

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY DANIELLE MILLER



We also piloted a remote narration and editing program for our Audiobook Production Department, partnered with the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind Independent Living Program to loan CCTVs, and created and loaned memory kits. Additionally, we moved our multisensory storytimes to virtual delivery with sensory kits sent to participating patrons, launched a virtual patron book club, created a series of promotional videos for WTBBBL, and more.

The sun is out, and things have been heating up at WTBBBL this summer. I'm excited to announce that WTBBBL was recognized as the 2022 Regional Library of the Year at a virtual ceremony during the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) annual conference May 18. This is a great honor and affirms the hard work, dedication, creativity, and passion of the WTBBBL staff, volunteers, and our patrons. The award recognizes our work to provide for the needs of our patrons, and support NLS core services and library creativity and innovation.

Over the past two years, WTBBBL has increased its circulation to its highest number in recent history by transitioning to Duplication on Demand, made possible by our customized audiobook technology; registering more patrons for BARD; and loaning Zoomax braille eReaders through a pilot with NLS.

Through a program with Washington State Library and Washington State Parks called "Check Out Washington," we have two Discover Passes that patrons can borrow. These passes offer access to state parks and other public lands. It's a great opportunity to hike or explore! WTBBBL has some great audio and braille books about local hikes, including *Hiking Washington's History* (DBC16889) and *Best Hikes with Dogs: Inland Northwest* (DBC16770).

We are now offering the iBill Currency Reader directly from WTBBBL. If you need an iBill, contact the library to complete an application and we will send one to you.

Finally, if you haven't seen them, you should check out the videos about WTBBBL and three of our departments: Audiobook Production, Braille, and Shipping. You can find the videos on our homepage at [www.wtbbl.org](http://www.wtbbl.org).

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# STATE LIBRARY NEWS

BY SARA JONES

Hello and Happy Summer! Washington State Library (WSL) is looking for people to join our organization. We currently have open positions in all WSL programs, including WTBBL, and Institutional Library Services, which received funding from the Legislature to hire 12 people in order to restore staffing levels to what they were in the early 2000s. Also, the Library Development Program is looking for a workforce development librarian; and the Central Library has multiple open permanent and temporary positions.

In late June, the American Library Association held its national conference in Washington, D.C., in person for the first time since the pandemic began. It was well attended, with several WSL staff members there. A highlight for me was a visit to the Library of Congress where we were allowed into the Reading Room; it was the first time for me and an amazing experience. At the conference we learned about new

programs and products available to libraries of all types, and had the opportunity to network with fellow librarians from across the country.

Washington's public libraries have opened new and reimagined locations this summer. I had the pleasure of attending these opening celebrations that demonstrated the value these libraries provide their communities.

These celebrations included the new library in Winthrop and the completely remodeled Spokane Public Central Library. Our communities appreciate these new libraries that reinforce economic vitality, promote literacy and reading, and highlight their cultural identity.

I hope you have taken some time to relax and read this summer.



Library of Congress  
Reading Room

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# YOUTH SERVICES UPDATES

BY ERIN GROTH

Have you explored the Oceans of Possibilities at WTBBL? Summer's been a splash this year, with more youth patrons signed up for Summer Reading than ever before! We had eight weeks of exciting and informative nautical-themed activity packets for three reading levels: Early Literacy, Children, and Teen.

This year has also marked the return to in-person programming, and we are so excited to hold events around the state once more. WTBBL hosted special visits to the Westport Aquarium, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, InclusionFest with the Seattle Public Library and Woodland Park Zoo, and a super-fun watersports event in Spokane Valley with the Northwest Association of Blind Athletes. Special thanks to all the organizations that partnered with WTBBL, and to all of our readers who participated this year. We can't wait to do it again in 2023!

Fall is right around the corner and, with all of our back-to-schooling, it's time to think about signing up for another round of the popular Pen-Pal Program. Pen-Pals will be paired up across the state to write letters to each other in UEB or large print from Sept. 23 to Dec. 16. This is a great opportunity to make friends with other WTBBL patrons all over Washington! You can sign up by Sept. 19 to participate.

Teachers, please also be on the lookout for the Annual Identification of Students Using WTBBL Services form, which should be in your inboxes. Please fill this out and return as soon as possible to ensure we can continue serving your students and update any changes to the account that might be needed.

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



**Summer Reading  
Participant Abigail**

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

# NEW INTEGRATIVE SERVICES

BY RYAN GELSKEY



I cannot believe how quickly three years have gone by since I first started at WTBBL in Shipping and Circulation. So much has changed here at the library, which was so exciting to be a part of firsthand, and so much in our world has changed. I never imagined when I started in October 2019 that in a few short months I would be at home, under “Stay Home Stay Safe” orders, engaging full-time with professional development videos and courses, instead of in the library circulating materials for all of you. And now it is so exciting to be able to work with you one-on-one as your Integrative Services Librarian.

A primary role of the Integrative Services Librarian is providing technical support and training for NLS equipment and services, including the new

eReaders and BARD. In order to fulfill this responsibility I must be familiar with assistive technologies and cross-platform troubleshooting with many devices. In essence, I help our patrons, and their advocates and caretakers, stay up to date on our evolving services and equipment options. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have!

Additionally, I am part of the core team of librarians in charge of Collection Development, which includes compiling and evaluating patron book suggestions for audio and braille production, while researching authors and books to suggest for local production, and cataloging the adult books that have been chosen. Along with building WTBBL’s selection of books with our Collection Development team, I’ve been cultivating connections with our wonderful patrons statewide, processing new patron applications, and providing Readers’ Advisory – getting you the books you want, and discovering new books with you. I am thrilled to be in this new role, and look forward to speaking with you soon!

# NEW AUDIOBOOKS ON BARD

BY JOHN PAI

Our volunteers have been doing a great job narrating books for you, and here are some great new titles to enjoy!

DBC15707 *Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Environmental Travel Essays for a Changing World* by Sharon Sneddon. Several short essays celebrate the beauty of nature in the Pacific Northwest, and warn about the consequences of climate change. Several essays address our relationship with other species that are also coping with these changes. 2017. Narrated by Diane Novak.

DBC15691 *Best Kept Secrets* by P.J. Howell. Jorja Matthews is being kept busy running a bookstore and being a private investigator. Her latest client puzzles her: why would he deny committing a murder and then plead guilty? Book 2 in the Jorja Matthews mystery series. 2013. Narrated by Candace Kramer.

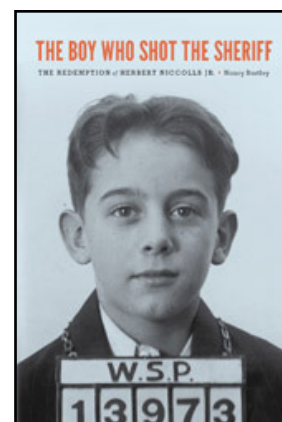
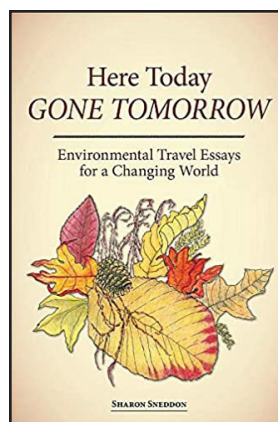
DBC15700 *Lying Next to Me* by Gregg Olsen. Adam and his wife, Sophie, are vacationing on the Hood Canal when he witnesses her abduction. Kirsten and Connor, who are staying in the cabin next door, have alibis. Detective Lee Husemann, an old friend, discovers that something just isn't right about this case. 2019. Narrated by M.E. Kintzi.

DBC15865 *The Boy Who Shot the Sheriff: The Redemption of Herbert Niccolls Jr.* by Nancy Bartley.

In 1931, a 12-year-old boy shot and killed the sheriff of Asotin, Washington. The incident stunned the small town, and a mob threatened to hang him. The crime, and Herbert Niccolls' eventual sentence of life imprisonment at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, drew national attention, only to be buried later in local archives. Journalist Nancy Bartley conducted extensive research to construct a compelling narrative of the events and characters that make this a unique episode in the history of criminal justice in the United States. 2013. Narrated by Ros Wilkes.

DBC15624 *The Wedding Night* by Jayne Ann Krentz.

Within hours of marrying Owen Sutherland, Angie Townsend is told that the marriage is a ploy to allow his family's resort chain to take over her family's resort chain. This puts a damper on their marriage until she can find out the truth. 2002. Narrated by Mary Schlosser.



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# “A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE”

BY DAVID JUNIUS

In this issue of *Reading Matters*, we say a heartfelt farewell to Bonnie Brown. Bonnie has had many roles at WTBBL, including: Shipping and Circulation Technician, Evergreen Radio Reading Service Broadcaster, and Audiobook Production Technician.

Originally from Tacoma, Bonnie initially trained in broadcasting in high school and at Bellevue Community College. She learned of volunteer opportunities at WTBBL in 1986, and subsequently became a broadcaster with the Evergreen Radio Reading Service and an audiobook narrator. In addition to donating her time and talents to the library, she served as a traffic reporter for various radio stations around the Puget Sound for 10 years.

Bonnie worked in WTBBL's Shipping and Circulation department for five years, partnering with fellow staff and dozens of volunteers to get the day's circulation out, and preparing returned books for the next patron to enjoy. Up to 2,000 items went out and came back daily, with Bonnie helping to keep our operation moving and providing excellent service.

Bonnie later transitioned to our Audiobook Production Department, working in postproduction to ready new locally narrated audiobooks for circulation to patrons. In time she assumed responsibility for BARD uploads, making even more titles available for download.

The WTBBL staff will miss Bonnie.

Audiobook Production Supervisor John Pai: Bonnie was an accomplished broadcaster who brought that talent to WTBBL. Her interview skills were impeccable, eliciting keen insights from visiting authors for our Literary News programs in ERRS, as well as centenarian patrons' oral history interviews for several 10-Squared events. She always seemed happiest when she was behind a microphone!

Shipping Supervisor Sally Jo Hagen: Bonnie has been a true joy to work with these “few” years. Here's wishing her next chapter is filled with much happiness!

WTBBL Director Danielle Miller: Bonnie has narrated the front matter for many locally produced audio books, and when she speaks you hear the smile and warmth in her voice. Having dedicated so much to WTBBL, her kindness, compassion, and contributions will continue to give to the patrons and community. She will always be part of the library through her smiling voice. Thank you, Bonnie!

Bonnie said: “Saying ‘Hello’ is the fun part; saying ‘Goodbye’ is always Bittersweet. Someone once said to me, ‘When it is time to retire, you will know.’ One day I just knew. I have enjoyed very much working here!”

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JUDY OGLIORE



Who am I: My name is Judy Ogliore. I retired in 2016 from a job with the federal government that I held for 28 years. I worked with Native American tribes in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska helping implement their Tribal Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care programs.

Why did I choose to volunteer at WTBBL? My father was legally blind for the last 10 years of his life. WTBBL gave him so much joy and entertainment that I vowed to support the organization in any way I could. After my oldest son graduated from college, he volunteered at the library when he was job-hunting. My husband is still a longtime audiobook narrator, who started when he retired in 2007.

My history with WTBBL: In early 2016 I started reviewing books for WTBBL. It was a very easy way to give back. I would volunteer for an hour-and-a-half per week, and it would take two to four months to complete a book – depending, of course, on its length. When COVID-19 hit everything shut down, and WTBBL was no different. WTBBL looked for ways to continue its work, and I was lucky to be loaned an “in-home” model of book-reviewing equipment. This was fantastic! I was able to review at my leisure for as much time as I had! My production increased dramatically. I didn’t have the flexibility of choosing the books I reviewed, but I reviewed books I never would have chosen, and found many of them fascinating.

Life has gotten busy, and I am taking time off, but I likely will return to this volunteer activity sometime in the future.

*Here are some of the books from the 40 that Judy has reviewed remotely:*

- *A Puget Sound Orca in Captivity* by Sandra Pollard (DBC15882)
- *Mercer Girls* by Libbie Hawker (DBC15765)
- *Skookum Summer* by Jack Hart (DBC15694)
- *Tacoma Stories* by Richard Wiley (DBC15703)
- *Whidbey Island* by Elizabeth Guss (DBC19129)



# JOIN OUR NEXT PATRON BOOK CLUB!

We've been having a great time at our quarterly Patron Book Club!

Our next meeting is Sept. 28 from 2 to 3 p.m. PT. We will discuss *Everything Sad is Untrue (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri, available as BR23597, DB101953, and LP26264.

About the book: In an Oklahoma middle school, Khosrou recounts to his skeptical classmates the tales of his refugee family's history, stretching back years, decades, and centuries. Starting with his mother's vocal embrace of Christianity in a country that made such a thing a capital offense, Khosrou deftly weaves through stories of fleeing in the middle of the night and the jasmine-scented city of Isfahan, peppered with a richness of ancient tales and Persian folklore. Khosrou stakes his claim to the truth with his tales of heartbreak and resilience, imparting to the reader to speak their own truth and be heard.

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

If you would like us to send you a cartridge with the book on it, call Reilly at 206-615-1783 or email [wtbbl@sos.wa.gov](mailto:wtbbl@sos.wa.gov).

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

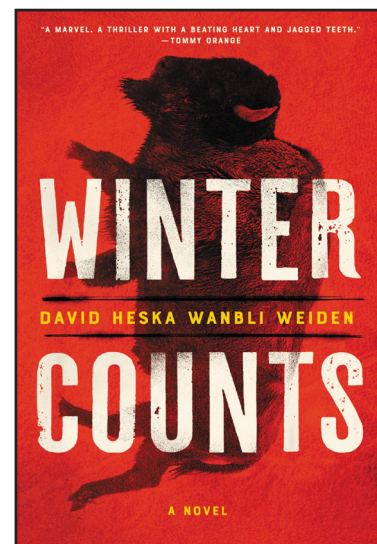
Phone number: 206-337-9723

Meeting ID: 840 2605 1131

Passcode: 134812

The Nov. 16 Book Club will feature *Winter Counts* by David Heska Wanbli Weiden, available as BR23423 and DB100989.

About the book: Virgil Wounded Horse is the local enforcer on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. When justice is denied by the American legal system or the tribal council, Virgil is hired to deliver his own punishment. But when heroin arrives on the reservation and finds Virgil's own nephew, his vigilantism becomes personal. As he follows a lead to Denver, he links together expanding cartel activity and new tribal council initiatives that force him to face his own demons and reclaim his Native identity – bringing him to realize being Native American in the 21st century comes at an incredible cost.



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# Thank You to Our April 1 to June 30, 2022 Donors

A heartfelt “thank you” to all our supporters for helping make our library the fantastic organization that it is. We appreciate the continued support that comes from our patrons, family members of patrons, volunteers and friends of the WTBBL community.

Gifts to WTBBL come to us in all forms – from foundations, matching gifts from companies, monthly automatic gifts as well as bequests, or a planned gift. However your donation comes to us, big or small, know that we are working hard to make sure we put your dollars to good use in expanding service, obtaining new materials and reaching new audiences.

We are honored to serve our patrons and appreciate our amazing community that helps to support our mission to ensure “That All May Read.” If you know someone that you think could benefit from WTBBL – please spread the word! We love to hear from new friends who would like to learn more about our services.

If you would like more information on how to donate to WTBBL, please contact Laura Mott, Director of Development, at 360-902-4171 or [laura.mott@sos.wa.gov](mailto:laura.mott@sos.wa.gov).

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Linda & Ken Adkins

Deirdre Allison

Jo Ann Anderson

Donald Anderson

Anonymous (13)

Lydia & David Arnold

Debra & Peter Baker

Patricia Barcott

Daniel Barcott

Erin Hayes & Richard Berndt

Christine & Dale Biddle

Camille Blanchette

Mary Boehme

Brigitte & Randy Bolerjack

Carol Boos

Sally Page Bradford

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Dana Marmion &

Kent Breidenstein

Shirley Broadbent

David Bucholtz

Ursula Buteau

Lynn & Robert Chase

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Philip Collette

Patricia Connell

Lawrence Cooper

Carol & Carl Corbin

Billie Cox

Erma Cross

Virginia & Arthur Crow

Frank Cuta

Robert Daniel

Dale Davis

Gerald Day

Saskia de Jonge

Douglas Delaney

Rebecca Dodson

Sandra Driscoll

Lauren Du Pree

Geneva DuBois

Mark Durfee

David Egan

David Elliott

Lynda Emel

Shawn Evans

Helen & Robert Ewald

Margie & Benjamin Fellows

Deborah &

Jeffrey Freedman

Vijay Garimella

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A Fond Farewell to Bonnie (see pg. 6)

