READING MATTERS

Third Quarter 2023



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121-2783

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

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

wtbbl@sos.wa.gov • www.wtbbl.org



That All May Read

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY DANIELLE MILLER



Congratulations to everyone who participated in our summer reading Book Bingo! I hope you enjoyed it and read some books in areas you may not typically read, possibly finding some new subjects or authors to add to your reading lists. This program was a first for us. While we learned a lot, we look forward to doing it again and coming up with new and fun ways to engage our readers. I also want to congratulate our amazing youth patrons who participated in the eight-week "All Together Now" summer reading program. They read a lot, and NLS hosted some great summer virtual author events as well.

In August, we celebrated our volunteers with an evening appreciation and awards event. Since July 2008, our volunteers have contributed more than 100,000 hours making reading materials in accessible formats available to our patrons and

patrons nationwide. We presented awards to volunteers with 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 hours of service, and we cannot thank them enough for all they do. They help make WTBBL a wonderful place to be and make such a difference in the community through their efforts to increase access to reading and expand the collection.

Every three years we do a patron satisfaction survey to get your feedback on how we are doing in terms of providing customer service and the services and programming we offer. The survey also gives us the opportunity to hear from you about how you use the library and what more you would like to see us do. Space is also provided so you can share general feedback about WTBBL. This survey is very important to help guide us in strategic planning, prioritizing implementation of new programs or services, and allocating resources. Please take the time to fill out the enclosed survey and return it to us, or use the link provided to fill it out online. Your input is incredibly valuable. If you need assistance with the survey, please do not hesitate to call the library.

Thank you! We want to hear from you and happy reading.

VOLUNTEER MIXER 08.09.2023



(Left) Bob Carlson walks up to receive his certificate of appreciation for logging 500 hours volunteering as a narrator in our Audiobook Department since 2008.



(Left to right) Volunteers Merri Ann Osborne and Betsy Haddox pose with guest Elena Thompson and our Lead Media Technician Nathan Ureta.



Long time WTBBL patron and Audition Committee volunteer, Quincy Daniels (left) sits with narrator Anne Farmer.



WTBBL Director Danielle Miller (left) poses with Maia Glass-Quicksall, who accepted a certificate on behalf of her mother Rachel Glass, who has logged over 1,000 volunteer hours.



Narrators Courtney Maheras (left) and Shay Troupe watch as Audiobook Supervisor John Pai gives a heartfelt speech to the crowd of volunteers.

YOUTH SERVICES

BY ERIN GROTH



We in the Youth Services Department are sad to see Summer Reading end but are excited for fall programming to begin! This Summer's slogan was "All Together Now" and we certainly held true to the theme. Nearly 60 youth patrons signed up for eight weeks' worth of activity packets full of art projects, challenges, and reading recommendations all based on community-building. From making friendship bracelets to writing hometown poetry and creating a collaborative tactile puzzle installation, it was amazing to see everyone's creativity come together! Not only did our by-mail packets connect us through shared experiences at home, but The National Library Service's first-ever Summer Reading virtual events brought us together online as well. Amazing authors like Kwame Alexander, Jenny Torres Sanchez, and Celia Pérez shared their

stories and answered patron questions during events throughout July and August. WTBBL and the Michigan Braille & Talking Book Library also collaborated on the first-ever network library interstate Pen-Pal Program this summer. Students from both Washington and Michigan were able to swap letters in large print or braille, making new friends far and wide! We can't wait to do it all again next year.

Another summer highlight was hosting an Accessible Escape Room at the NFB BELL® Academy in Vancouver on Aug. 2. Talented students worked together to collect clues and solve puzzles in a timed collaborative game experience based on adventure and travel. Everyone escaped and got a prize at the end, and it was so much fun!

Now that school is back in session, it's time to think about our regular in-state Pen-Pal Program. This year, we will hold a single school year-round program instead of separate fall and spring sessions. Online registration is open until Oct.13 on the WTBBL Youth Services webpage.

Teachers, 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 to serve 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 e-newsletter, **DOTS: WTBBL's Youth Patron Newsletter**. Contact Youth Librarian Erin at erin.groth@sos.wa.gov or 206-615-1253 to get on the list!



Noelle works on a clue



Sophia's tactile maze



Gemma's poem for WTBBL



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BY JESSICA JENSEN



"I believe in braille and think that's the only equivalent medium as print. As long as print is around and in hard copy, braille should be available in hard copy format."

Keiko has been volunteering at WTBBL since 2019 as a Tactile Proofreader in the Braille Department. She proofreads with a partner who follows along with the standard print book as she reads aloud from the embossed braille. She methodically checks the braille text for errors, comparing her reading to her partner's copy.

Keiko came to WTBBL after having previously volunteered at Sight Connection (SC). She wanted to do more volunteering after SC closed and wanted to contribute to something worthwhile. She thinks of volunteering at WTBBL as paying back the years of service she has received. Keiko has been a patron of talking book libraries since she was in middle school and says that the books have helped her fill the leisure hours in her life.

Keiko also began the Touch of Braille program with another volunteer. This program is an introduction to braille, and it will be restarting at WTBBL this September. She is excited to bring this program to WTBBL, not only for blind and low vision individuals, but for anyone interested in learning the basics of braille.

Keiko always goes to the "Most Recent" lists to find her next read. She also loves using audiobooks for bedtime stories with her grandchildren, saying it can help them all doze off! She enjoys a variety of genres and tends to choose books with intriguing descriptions.

Keiko's fun fact about herself is that she has folded origami paper cranes since elementary school. There is a legend about 1,000 paper cranes, where folding 1,000 paper cranes can bring good health to a person. In the spirit of this legend, Keiko makes 1,000 paper cranes for her loved ones, attaches them to a mobile, then sends them off with her wishes for their wellness.

WTBBL Patron Survey 2023

Patron feedback is the most important way for us to determine what services and resources to offer. It is important for us to get your feedback regarding our services, how well they are delivered, and what could be done better.

This survey has 24 questions and includes sections where you can share your thoughts with written responses. All questions are important, as are the opinions and ideas you share with us. All answers are confidential and anonymous.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact us at 206-615-0400, 800-542-0866, or wtbbl@sos.wa.gov.

An online version of this survey is available at bit.ly/WTBBLSurvey2023

Please remove this center section from the staples, fill out the survey, fold in half at the dotted line below with this side facing out, and tape closed. Free matter return postage is marked below.



WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9TH AVENUE SEATTLE, WA 98121-2783 FREE MATTER for the Blind or Handicapped

WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE LIBRARY

2021 9TH AVENUE SEATTLE, WA 98121-2783

2. If yes, what method did you use? Phone call Email Mail In-person 3. How often do you contact us by the following methods? Phone Daily Weekly Monthly Yearly Never]Yes []No					
3. How often do you contact us by the following methods? Phone	2. If yes,	what meth	nod did	you use?				
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Email	3. How o	ften do yo	u conta	act us by the	e following me	ethods?		
Mail	Phone		Daily	□ Weekly	□ Monthly	☐ Yearly	□Never	
In-person	Email		Daily	☐ Weekly	□Monthly	☐ Yearly	□Never	
4. If you have contacted us, what was the reason? Please check all that apply. Have not contacted WTBBL	Mail	ail 🔲 Daily 🔲 Weekly		□Monthly	☐ Yearly	□Never		
□ Have not contacted WTBBL □ Report a problem with service □ Apply for service □ Get technical support □ Order books or magazines □ Inquire about new services □ Ask for book recommendations □ To make a suggestion □ Ask about my account □ Other □	In-person □ Daily □ Weekly		□ Weekly	□ Monthly	☐ Yearly	□Never		
☐ Order books or magazines ☐ Inquire about new services ☐ Ask for book recommendations ☐ To make a suggestion ☐ Ask about my account ☐ Other	☐ Have not contacted WTBBL ☐ Report a problem with service							
Ask about my account Other On a scale of 1 to 5- with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent"- how would you rate the customer service you received? If you have not contacted								
5. On a scale of 1 to 5– with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent"– how would you rate the customer service you received? If you have not contacted								
would you rate the customer service you received? If you have not contacted	☐ Ask about my account ☐ Other							
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1. Have you contacted WTBBL in the past year?

Mail

In-Person

How do WTBBL services benefit you? Please check all th	that apply.
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□ Entertainment	□ Education/Research
□ Knowledge	□ Other
□ Quality of life	

7. On a scale of 1 to 5- with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent"- how would you rate the library services you use? If you have not used a listed service, please do not circle a rating number.

Digital audiobooks on cartridge	1	2	3	4	5
BARD mobile app	1	2	3	4	5
BARD express	1	2	3	4	5
Braille books	1	2	3	4	5
Braille magazines	1	2	3	4	5
eBraille books	1	2	3	4	5
Print braille books	1	2	3	4	5
Large print books	1	2	3	4	5
Zoomax eReader	1	2	3	4	5
Magazines on cartridge	1	2	3	4	5
Magazines on BARD	1	2	3	4	5
International language materials	1	2	3	4	5
WTBBL online catalogue	1	2	3	4	5
NLS online catalogue	1	2	3	4	5
WTBBL social media	1	2	3	4	5

8. Whe braille,	-					•	_							_		slette	er in
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12. Do	you ha	ve a	ccess	to the	e inte	rnet	t?										
	□Yes		□No														

13. If no, would ac	cess to the internet benefit	t you?				
□Yes	□No					
14. Are you aware patrons?	that WTBBL produces audi	obooks and braille for its				
□Yes	□No					
15. Are you aware patrons and school		rvices and programs for youth				
□Yes	□No					
16. Which services	below do you use? Check a	all that apply.				
□ Audible	□ Audiobook	s from your public library				
□ Bookshare	☐ Bookshare ☐ eBooks from your public library					
☐ Learning Ally	Learning Ally 🔲 Large print books from your public library					
□ NFB Newsline	NFB Newsline					
17. If you were to a or virtual program?	5 . •	ould you prefer an in-person				
□ Prefer in-perso	□ Prefer in-person □ Prefer virtual □ Either works for i					
18. What time/s of program? Check all	-	ient for you to attend a librar				
□Weekday morr	nings 🗆 Weekday aftern	oons				
□Weekend morr	nings 🗆 Weekend aftern	☐ Weekend afternoons ☐ Weekend evenings				

19. What types of library programs/events might you be most interested in? Check all that apply. ☐ Book Club ☐ Library Open House ☐ Game Night ☐ Assistive Technology Fair ☐ Movie Night ☐ Summer Reading Program with prizes ☐ Storytime ☐ Other _____ 20. For these statements, check "Agree", "Somewhat Agree", "Somewhat Disagree", or "Disagree." WTBBL is responsive to my needs as a patron. ☐ Somewhat Disagree □Agree ☐ Somewhat Agree □ Disagree WTBBL's book collection meets my expectations. □Agree ☐ Somewhat Agree ☐ Somewhat Disagree □ Disagree WTBBL is innovative and continues to offer relevant services.

☐ Somewhat Disagree

□ Disagree

☐ Somewhat Agree

□Agree

21. Please complete the following statements:
WTBBL is doing well at
WTBBL could be better if
22 Danier barra anno additional accompany and accompany and accompany
22. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

1. What is your age?									
2. What is your ZIP code?	2. What is your ZIP code?								
3. To which race/ethnicity do yo	3. To which race/ethnicity do you belong?								
4. What is your gender identity?	4. What is your gender identity?								
5. Are you a member of the LGI	BTQIA+ community?								
□Yes □No									
24. Which disability best describes	why you use WTBBL? Please check one								
□ Blindness	☐ Reading Disability								
□ DeafBlindness	☐ Multiple Disabilities								
□ Visual Impairment	□ Other (please specify)								
☐ Physical Disability									

23. Optional Demographic Information

RECEPTION DISPLAY

BY IZZY FERNANDEZ



This spring, we unveiled a new interactive display in our lobby showcasing the library's most commonly circulated equipment and materials. This display was made especially for new patrons who come into the library hoping to become acquainted with our Talking Book Technology before going home with their new material. With this goal in mind, we were able to create a space in the library where future patrons and visitors alike can explore all that the library has to offer.

The display includes a bookshelf with both the standard and advanced talking book players, a talking book cartridge and its mailing case, a braille magazine, a print/braille

book, and a large print book. Each item has a braille label in front of it, along with a number that corresponds to a list above the bookshelf, explaining what each item is. Next to this list is another poster explaining how to use the library, with sections titled: "Getting Started," "Choose Books," and "Receive Books." We hope that having a designated area where people can interact with our material will help educate and inform the community about our services as we work towards our goal of providing books to all eligible Washington state residents.

Check out our new display today!

NEW AUDIOBOOKS

BY JOHN PAI

As the days get shorter in the Pacific Northwest, we can still hang on to the memories of summer with baseball, travel, and celebrations by reading these newly available and locally produced talking books!

For Adult readers we have:

DBC19182 Pretty Good Number One: An American Family Eats Tokyo

by Matthew Amster-Burton
Matthew Amster-Burton spent a month
living in a tiny Tokyo apartment with his
family. The result is a love letter to Tokyo
and Japanese cuisine. Matthew lovingly
describes neighborhoods and the dishes
his family ate there. A humorous travel
memoir in the tradition of Peter Mayle and
Bill Bryson, **Pretty Good Number One** is
the next best thing to a ticket to Tokyo.
[2014 Narrated by Michael Memmo]

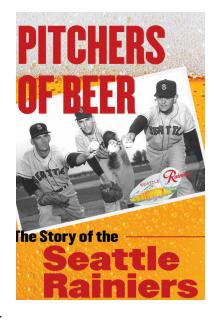
DBC19104 Nature Obscura: A City's Hidden Natural World

by Kelly Brenner
People see cities as human creations,
but nature remains if you know where to
look. Brenner reveals the complex microhabitats and surprising nature found in
the middle of a city. In Seattle, which
has plowed down hills, cut through the
land to connect fresh- and saltwater, and
paved over much of the rest, she exposes
a diverse range of strange and unknown

creatures. From shore to wetland, forest to neighborhood park, and graveyard to backyard, Brenner uncovers how our land alterations have impacted nature, for good and bad, through the wildlife and plants that live alongside us, often unseen. [2020 Narrated by Camille Blanchette]

DBC6980 Pitchers of Beer: The Story of the Seattle Rainiers

by Dan Raley
In 1937, brewery
owner Emil
Sick bought a
floundering minor
league baseball
team and changed
its name to the
Rainiers, which was
also the name of
the beer he brewed.



The story of the Rainiers spans the end of the Great Depression, World War II, the rise of the airline industry, and the incursion of Major League Baseball into the West Coast. The team was a beloved Seattle institution with colorful characters and future major leaguers. The book captures the timeless appeal of baseball, along with the local moments and minutiae that bring the game home to each and every one of us.

[2011 Narrated by Bob Carlson]

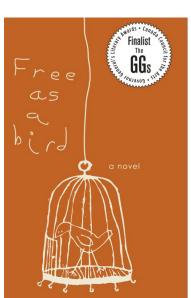
DBC15608 Cheap, Fast, Good!: A Cookbook

by Beverly Mills & Alicia Ross
The work of two brilliant problem-solvers,
Cheap. Fast. Good! cuts through both the
budget dilemma and the time dilemma
with 275 recipes for great, family-pleasing
dishes, most of which take under 25
minutes to prepare and average out to
cost less than \$2 a serving.
[2005 Narrated by Ros Wilkes]

And for younger readers we have:

DBC06771 Free as a Bird

by Gina McMurchy-Barber
Born with Down syndrome, Ruby Jean
Sharp comes from a time when being a
developmentally disabled person could
mean growing up behind locked doors
and barred windows. After her loving
grandmother dies, she is sent to the



Provincial Lunatic Asylum - and forced to learn what it means to be a survivor. Grades 5-8 and older. [2010 Narrated by Maia Glass Quicksall]

DBC07048 Wedgie & Gizmo

by Suzanne Selfors
Wedgie the happy
corgi is so EXCITED
to have a new sibling
- Gizmo the guinea
pig! But Gizmo is not
excited to be part
of Wedgie's family.
He'd rather take over
the world with his
evil genius plans. For
grades 3-6.
[2017 Narrated by
Evelyn Frantz]



DBC15826 Larry Gets Lost in the Library by John Skewes & Eric Ode

Larry, a playful pup, loves to go on vacation with Pete at his grandparents' farm. When a bookmobile arrives, Pete is excited to select a stack of books, but he doesn't notice that Larry, in search of a snack, wanders into the bookmobile and is taken back to the city! For preschool - grade 2.

[2005 Narrated by Deanna Sarkar]

DBC15821 Think Smart, Be Fearless: A Biography of Bill Gates

by Sharon Mentyka

Think Smart, Be Fearless tells the inspiring story of Bill Gates, one of America's most fascinating entrepreneurs, starting from his early years as a precocious, inquisitive child who faced challenges fitting in with his classmates.

[2017 Narrated by Deanna Sarkar]

Announcing the last three books of the year!

OCT. 30: The Fervor by Alma Katsu (DB107806)

In a remote corner of Idaho, it becomes clear to Meiko Briggs and her daughter Aiko, that something more sinister is afoot in the Japanese Internment Camp than the mysterious disease spreading. Can the doctors be trusted? Or will the Japanese yokai and jorogumo – demons from Meiko's childhood hell-bent on infiltrating their already up-turned world – be unveiled as responsible? A sharp account of a too-recent history, The Fervor is a deep excavation of how we decide who gets to be human, when being human matters most.

NOV. 25: Horse by Geraldine Brooks (DB108556)

Before Seabiscuit and War Admiral, Lexington was known as the best racehorse of his day. A sweeping novel with storylines crossing three centuries, Horse follows Lexington from Kentucky in 1850, through the Civil War with his enslaved groom, Jarret, to 1954 and an oil painting of mysterious provenance, to 2019 and the study of a forgotten skeleton and the black horsemen critical to his racing success. Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

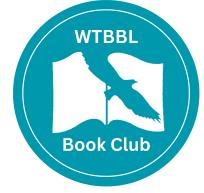
JAN. 8, 2024: The Last Green Valley by Mark T. Sullivan (DB106525)

PLEASE NOTE: To accommodate for the length of this book and the holiday season, we are scheduling this discussion for the second week of January, as the last of 2023 / first of 2024

Ukraine, 1944. After a century of their German ancestors farming the land, Emil and Adeline Martel are faced with an impossible decision: follow the Nazis, who promise protection for "pure-blooded Germans", or stand in the face of the Soviet

invasion and possible deportation to Siberia. Caught between two warring forces and forced to overcome horrific trials, the Martels' story is a brutal, complex, and ultimately triumphant tale capturing the spirit and tenacity of a people still fighting against invasion today.

Contact Integrative Services Librarian Ryan Gelskey, at ryan.gelskey@sos.wa.gov or 206-386-1254 for questions and to sign up.



BARD Password Update

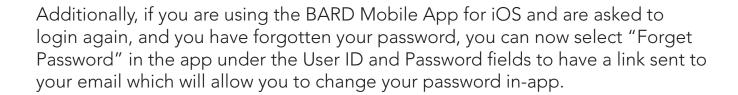
NLS has made it easier than ever to change your BARD password!

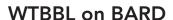
Simply go to nlsbard.loc.gov and click on the "Reset your BARD password here" link under the Login button.

After you enter your email address and press the "Submit" button, you'll receive an email with a hyperlink in it.

Click on the hyperlink to open a webpage that will allow you to create a new password.







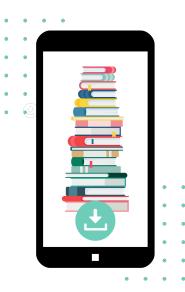
Did you know you can easily search for our locally produced WTBBL books on the BARD Mobile Apps?

Navigate to the Get Books module, then click on Search.

In the search bar, enter "WA1A" – our unique network library code, make sure it is set to a Keyword search, then press "Go."

Twenty-five books will be displayed first, but as you scroll down the list will refresh to 50, 75, 100, etc.

Happy Reading!



PODCAST PROGRAM

BY NATHAN URETA



WTBBL's Audio Department has been hard at work producing audiobooks as usual, but later this year get ready to hear us in a whole new way. The WTBBL Audio Department is excited to tell you about our new podcasting initiative! While there are still a few details to be ironed out, we have a few podcasts in mind that we hope you'll look forward to.

One podcast will feature conversations between our volunteers and local authors who have books available on BARD. These interviews will focus on a

particular book in the catalog and may even be included when you obtain your copy of the book from BARD. Think of it as a "bonus feature" like you might find on a DVD. Another podcast will highlight services, events, and organizations of interest to our patrons. Another podcast will let listeners know about our offerings on BARD, spotlighting new releases and staff recommendations. We'll also highlight books that will help you get in the spirit of the season year-round, like horror books during October, fun summer reads for July, or books by Black authors during Black History Month. These programs will be available to patrons as well as the general public.

As we speak, our existing studio space is being outfitted with all-new digital equipment. Once renovations are finished, we'll be able to start recording and editing our programs. We're very excited for you to hear what we have in store for our community, and we hope you are too!

If you have any questions, or if there's a service, event, organization, or local author you'd like to hear featured in our programming, email Nathan at nathan.ureta@sos.wa.gov or leave a message at 206-256-6491.



Thank You to Our Donors!

One can hardly express the gratitude we have for all our donors. Donor support has helped deliver reading enjoyment to thousands of WTBBL patrons across our state. Thank you for your support in ensuring that all may read. As we prepare to start this year's Annual Giving Campaign, we are reminded how lucky we are to serve such wonderful and generous people. Thank you for all the support you provide to the library!

Your gifts come to us in many forms, from bequests to matching gifts, the Combined Fund Drive, or annual campaign donations, and by donors who support through GiveBig. Some people give in memory of a loved one, and others give through their workplace, while some chose to give monthly through our recurring donor program. We accept gifts of all kinds, through all different formats, and we are extremely grateful for each and every one. Any amount is appreciated and helps us better serve you.

We couldn't do this important work without our donors. We are honored to serve our patrons and thank you for your continued support.

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



Director Danielle Miller stands in front of the new donor wall. The wall honors many of WTBBL's exceptional supporters.



Thank you to all our donors, patrons, and champions who supported WTBBL from April 1 to June 30, 2023. Every donation is appreciated, big or small, as each gift helps us better serve you. You can give by sending a check to WTBBL or giving online by credit card at **www.wtbbl.org**.

Thank you for helping us make your library the best it can be!

Joan **Albert**

Deirdre **Allison**

Jo Ann **Anderson**

Deanne & Michael

Andrews

Anonymous (7)

Lydia & David

Arnold

Suzanne Balke

Kelly & Glen

Baughman

Erin **Hayes** &

Richard Berndt

Christine & Dale

Biddle

Camille **Blanchette**

Dana **Marmion** &

Kent **Breidenstein**

Kimberly **Brown**

David **Bucholtz**

Connie **Buckley**

Craiq **Buhler**

Claire **Burnett**

Dorothy Casura

Georgia & Joseph

Chiarella

Carol & Carl

Corbin

Margaret & George

Corley

Virginia & Arthur

Crow

Robert **Daniel**

Gerald **Dav**

Saskia and Anneke

de Jonae

Sandra **Driscoll**

Sherry **Dubbin**

Stella **Eckley**

Shmuel **Elad**

David **Elliott**

Lynda **Emel**

Janice **Esterly**

Shawn **Evans**

Helen & Robert

Ewald

Margie & Benjamin

Fellows

Adair **Gates**

William Goss

Beatrice

Greenwald

Ling & Dwight

Harris

Ronald **Heath**

Gregory **Heino**

Herrick **Heitman**

Louise **Highleyman**

Velma **Johnson**

Helen & Budd

Johnson

Sue Johnson

Frederick Allan

Jones Estate

Sara **Jones**

James Joyner

Dysa **Kafoury**

Patricia **Kahn**

Hannah Karis

Doris **Katagiri**

Patricia & Robert

Kautz

Michael **Kerstetter**

Juana Lee Killion

KMR Group

Foundation

Siobhan **Kotal**

Mary **LaMont**

Ethylanne

Larrimore

Anne

Lavalla Curran

Brian **Long**

Valerie Lynch-Holm

Alice & William

MacDonald

Jan & John

Mantle

Dorothy Marks

Mary **Mattson**



Deanna

Mattson-Walker

Danielle Miller

Lupine Miller

Lorna & Leslie

Molenaar

Barbara & Thomas

Nubile

Judy & John

Ogliore

Nana

Ollerman-Felt

Phyllis & John

Olson

John Pai

Wanita **Peterson**

Elizabeth **Planta**

Anne Pound

Doris & Duncan

Prince

LaDene Rantala

Janet Richard

Kathryn Richardson

Margaret & Theodore

Sabine

Kathy Savory

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