

# READING MATTERS

Second  
Quarter  
2025



## 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



The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) has been hit hard with instability and reductions in both our state and federal funding. Our federal funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was terminated and then reinstated through September of this year, but the future of that funding source is uncertain. The state funding we requested from the Legislature to stabilize our budget was not provided. These two factors have resulted in insufficient support for full operations at WTBBL. We will see reductions in library service until this can be restored.

These cuts are devastating for everyone who relies on WTBBL, and we know they will be the most difficult for you, our patrons. We are pursuing fundraising efforts to attempt to preserve some services and fill the gap until state funding can be restored. You can help support the library with a donation to the ALL Foundation, our 501(c)3, and noting WTBBL as the recipient. This will help keep vital programs and services going while we seek additional funding from the State Legislature. Donations can be made online at [wtbbl.org](http://wtbbl.org) or by mailing a check to the library. We will do our best to support you during reduced capacity and appreciate your support of WTBBL and WTBBL staff and volunteers.

On the cover: Youth patron reading a braille book with parent watching on.

## Operations Update

Due to budget cuts, the library building will be closed to the public beginning July 1, 2025. Visits will be available by appointment only.

Additionally, our phone line will transition to voicemail-only. If you need to reach us, please leave a message, and a staff member will return your call as soon as possible.

Please note that all library services will continue as usual.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding. We remain hopeful that we will be able to resume regular operations in the future.

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library



# REACH OF WTBBL AUDIOBOOKS

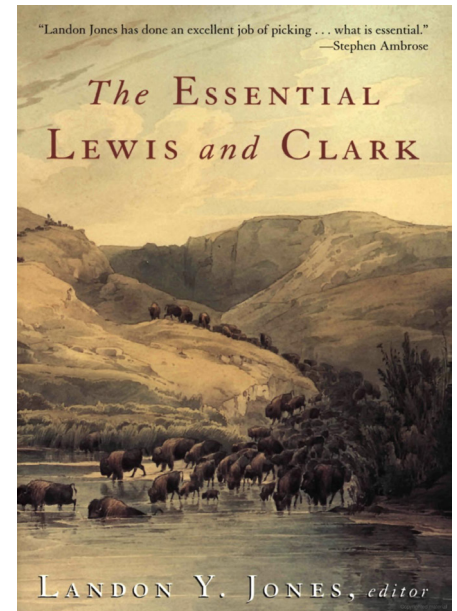
BY DANIELLE MILLER

The WTBBL Audiobook Production Department is made up of five dedicated staff members, approximately 100 volunteer narrators, and more than 25 volunteer book reviewers. At any given time, there are more than 600 books in various stages of production, and, in 2024, there were more than 90 completed books that were uploaded to BARD, the Braille and Audio Reading Download website.

The books that our Audiobook Department produces with the incredible work and commitment of our volunteers are primarily by Northwest authors, set in the Northwest, or about the Northwest. Once uploaded to BARD, these books are available to WTBBL patrons to download on their devices or to receive by mail on a digital talking book cartridge. What everyone may not know is that the books WTBBL produces are also available to National Library Service (NLS) patrons nationwide and to people internationally who have print disabilities.

The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, also known as the Marrakesh Treaty, allows for the exchange of accessible-format books across international borders by organizations that serve people who are blind, visually impaired, and print disabled. Via NLS, WTBBL-produced books are made available through the Marrakesh Treaty and accessed through the Global Book Service's Accessible Books Consortium. This important work by the WTBBL Audiobook Department is helping to address the widespread problem of the global book famine.

In the last several years, WTBBL-produced books have been downloaded 208 times from the Accessible Books Consortium! Books have been accessed by people in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, India, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Switzerland, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago. New Zealand is our biggest downloader with 55 downloads, and author J.A. Jance rates highly with that audience. The most downloaded book, with 11 downloads, is **The Essential Lewis and Clark** ([DBC15639](#)), narrated by Tim Clifford.



If you haven't tried a locally produced audiobook, I hope you'll give one a try. WTBBL audiobooks begin with the prefix DBC and can be searched with "produced at WTBBL" or subject "Northwest." Enjoy!

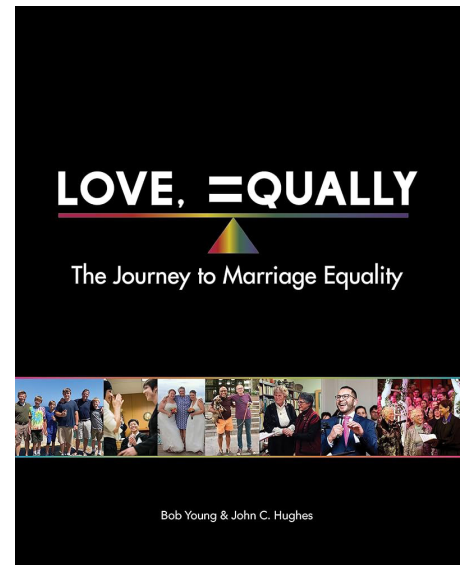
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# NEW AUDIOBOOKS

BY JOHN PAI

[DBC19353](#) **Love Equally: The Journey to Marriage Equality** by Bob Young, John C. Hughes, Aaron Peplowski, Steve Hobbs, Washington (State), Office of the Secretary of State, and Legacy Washington (Program)

The success of the marriage equality movement stunned even its advocates. The transformation from "outlaws to in-laws" was one of the swiftest turnarounds in U.S. civil rights history. As recently as 2006, our state law did not prohibit job discrimination against gays and lesbians, and our state Supreme Court banned same-sex marriage. Bruised but not beaten, LGBTQ+ advocates tried a brick-by-brick approach. They got domestic partnerships passed in three phases, capped by an "everything but marriage" law. Marriage equality landed on Washington's November ballot in 2012. Devastating votes against same-sex marriage in other states - 31 losses without a win - informed a new strategy. It would shift debate from the head to the heart. 2023. Narrated by Rick Sipe; Reviewed by Jeff Howard.

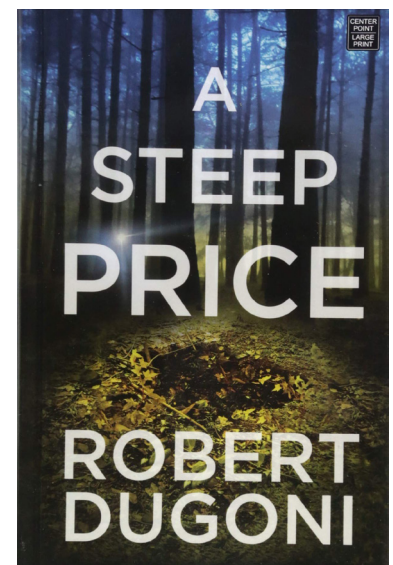


[DBC19022](#) **Minidoka Memoirs: The Untold Story from the Yoshito Fujii Files** by Ken Mochizuki

Yoshito Fujii emigrated to the United States in 1920 and twenty-two years later found himself, his family, and his neighbors in the Minidoka War Relocation Center for being Japanese Americans in World War II. He kept extensive records and documents of his time at Minidoka as well as his family's experience before and after the war. 2017. Narrated by Linda Nelson; Reviewed by Steve Zon.

[DBC15781](#) **A Steep Price [#6, Tracy Crosswhite]** by Robert Dugoni

Tracy Crosswhite's life and work are getting complicated. Her superiors in the Seattle police force aren't aware that she's pregnant. Her case load includes a dead community activist and a missing college student. Plus, there's a new member of her team who may be getting groomed to replace her. 2018. Narrated by Courtney Maheras; Reviewed by Margaret Woods.



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# NEW BRAILLE BOOKS

BY TRACI TIMMONS

The Braille Department has produced the series, **Mothers of Xsan**, by Brett D. Huson. Seen through the life cycle of animals in the northwestern part of North America, the author demonstrates how an ecosystem's animals, people, and seasons are all intertwined. Seven books in this award-winning series are available as PRINT/BRAILLE.

For grades K-3. 2017-2024. Transcriber: Pam Lorenz; Proofreaders: Lanae Naugle and Martha Oman.



[BRP016178](#) **The Sockeye Mother**

[BRP016179](#) **The Grizzly Mother**

[BRP016180](#) **The Eagle Mother**

[BRP016181](#) **The Frog Mother**

[BRP016182](#) **The Wolf Mother**

[BRP016183](#) **The Raven Mother**

[BRP016184](#) **The Bee Mother**

[BRP016185](#) **Galloping Gertie: The True Story of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge Collapse** by Amanda Abler

This nonfiction picture book looks at the strange and spectacular collapse of the 1940 Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The collapse has become a textbook example of an engineering failure, an oft-used science lesson, and has even given rise to a legend of a gigantic octopus.

PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades 3-6. 2021. Transcriber: Pam Lorenz; Proofreaders: Jessica Sanneman and Srithi Srinath.

[BRP016193](#) **The Pie Reports** by Hayley Lowe

Noor and Granddad have a pie for every occasion and spend a wonderful summer trying each one. When vacation ends, Noor must say goodbye and fly home. Despite an ocean of distance between them and Granddad's declining health, the pair continue to connect through their shared passion for pastry by meeting for video chats. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3 and older. 2024. Transcriber: Evangeline Mandeville; Proofreaders: Jessica Sanneman and Srithi Srinath.



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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

# THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Now more than ever, we are dependent upon the efforts and generous time commitment of our WTBBL Volunteers. On April 23, during National Volunteer Week, WTBBL held a program to celebrate this amazing community. Between in-person and Zoom attendees, we had more than 40 people join us to hear from WTBBL Director Danielle Miller, Washington State Librarian Sara Jones, and WTBBL staff. Jennifer Ott, Executive Director of HistoryLink and author of several books produced in braille and audiobook formats by WTBBL, gave the volunteers a special presentation about the building of Seattle's Ship Canal, which stretches from Lake Washington to the Puget Sound.

We also celebrated several volunteers who reached significant service-hour milestones:

**500 hours** - Winfield Hobbs and Carol Tobin

**1,000 hours** - Camille Blanchette, Stacy Thurston, and Stephen Zon

**2,000 hours** - Michael Memmo

Congratulations to our award winners and a very hearty thank you to all our amazing volunteers. We literally could not do it without you!



WTBBL volunteers listen to the author's presentation.



Author Jennifer Ott speaks about the history of Seattle's ship canal.

# THE LEGACY OF GIVING

BY JENNIFER KILBOURN

A charitable bequest to the library in your living trust or will is a powerful testimony of your desire to make the world of books and information available to those who are unable to read standard print.

Example wording for a simple bequest: "I give and bequeath to the ALL Foundation of Washington [a charitable 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization located at 2021 9th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121. EIN 26-3135760] in designation of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, a program of the Washington State Library, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ (or a percentage of sold real estate, stocks, bonds, etc.) to be used as the organization best determines.

You can also name the ALL Foundation of Washington (in designation of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library) as the beneficiary of your insurance policies or retirement plans.

For questions about your gifts, please email the ALL Foundation Administrator Jennifer Kilbourn at [jennifer.kilbourn@sos.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.kilbourn@sos.wa.gov) or call 206-712-6562.



The WTBBL donor wall. The wall honors many of WTBBL's exceptional supporters.

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Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Thank you to all our donors, patrons, and champions who supported WTBBL from January 1 to March 31, 2025. 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 [wtbbl.org](http://wtbbl.org).

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

Anonymous	Marjorie <b>Clark</b>	Rebecca <b>Fretwell</b>
Paul and Marcella <b>Allen</b>	Patricia <b>Clayton</b>	Sharon <b>Galyardt</b>
Jean <b>Amend</b>	Marcia <b>Cordell</b>	Lucy <b>Gaskill-Gaddis</b>
David and Lydia <b>Arnold</b>	Erma <b>Cross</b>	Adair <b>Gates</b>
Anna <b>Ash</b>	Virginia and Arthur <b>Crow</b>	Michelle <b>Germann</b>
Joan <b>Bailey</b>	Robert <b>Daniel</b>	Jeffery <b>Gibbs</b>
Timothy <b>Beardsley</b> and Tricia <b>Hendrickson</b>	Gerald <b>Day</b>	Carol <b>Gillespie</b>
Jeff <b>Beardsley</b>	Rebecca <b>Dean</b>	Joan <b>Goldblatt</b>
Joan <b>Benedetti</b>	Robert and Gertrude Anne <b>Delaney</b>	Lacrese <b>Green</b>
Suzanne <b>Benson</b> and Rosie <b>Laws</b>	Eileen <b>Desvoigne</b>	William <b>Griffin</b>
Dorothy <b>Bocian</b>	Sherry Rae <b>Dubbin</b>	Ernest and Winna <b>Griffith</b>
Stephen and Julie <b>Brommers</b>	Gerald <b>Ervine</b>	Penny and Norris <b>Hazelton</b>
James <b>Bryant</b>	Helen <b>Ewald</b>	James <b>Heltsley</b>
David <b>Bucholtz</b>	Julie <b>Fall</b>	Tanya <b>Henrich</b>
Alan <b>Butterworth</b>	Richard <b>Filion</b>	Louise <b>Highleyman</b>
Joseph and Georgia <b>Chiarella</b>	Charles <b>Fox</b>	Tom <b>Hinckley</b>
	George and Joyce <b>Frasier</b>	Geraldine <b>Horwich</b>
		Judith <b>Howard</b>

Fredrick and Joyce  
**Johns**

Helen and Budd  
**Johnson**

Joanne and Dale **Julian**

Mary **Kechersid**

Barbara and Philip  
**Keightley**

Shirley and William  
**Keller**

Juana Lee **Killion**

Nancy **Klinger**

David and Patrice  
**Lange**

Sandy and Paul  
**Lillengreen**

Stephanie **Lucash**

Alice **MacDonald**

Lorrina **Madinger**

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Dorothy **Marks**

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Walker**

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Forrest **Morgan**

Christine **Murphy**

Elouise **Nelson**

Dolley and John  
**Newcomb**

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Phyllis and John **Olson**

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Irene **Paskovskis**

Betty **Peine**

Vicki **Perry**

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**Pettersen**

Patricia and Trisch  
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**Preston**

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Dean and Christine  
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Nedra **Ransom**

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Myrtis **Reed** and Liann  
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Kathleen **Riesterer**

Sue Ann **Roberts**

Debbie **Robinson**

Carrolle **Rudnick**

Pheobe **Russell**

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**Sabine**

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**Castro**

Nancy and Bill **Savage**

Ellen **Schwartz**

Donna **Scott**

Sarah and Joel **Seidel**

Linda **Sellers**

Mariya **Sirotnikova**

Kathy **Skipper**

Betty **Smith**

Steven **Smith**

Linda **Stange**

Phillip **Stein**  
Terra **Straight**  
Norman **Streutker**  
Nancy **Suter**  
Robert and Paula  
**Swann**  
Phyllis and Fairrel  
**Tackett**  
Jacqueline **Taubel**  
Kathleen **Teeple**  
Margaret **Thomas**  
Michael **Twomey**  
Holly **Ullman**  
Andrea **Valenta**  
Susy **Valenzuela**  
Mary **Whiting**  
David **Wilder**  
Edith **Williams** and  
James **Kienast**  
Barbara **Windholz**  
Rita **Wise**  
Thomas **Wojciechowski**  
Phyllis **Woodman**  
Karen **Woodworth**  
William **Zumeta**

**Chambers Living Trust**  
**University of Washington**  
**Retirement Association**  
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**In Memory of:**

Dad, Walter **Sayer**  
J. Patrick **Dobel**  
Marjorie **Griffin**  
Mary **Heltsley**  
Naydene **Morrow**  
Deborah **Brown**  
Ardith **King**

**In Honor of:**

Tom and Jean **Heestand**  
Velda **Whiting**

**Questions about  
donating?**

Please contact  
[jennifer.kilbourn@sos.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.kilbourn@sos.wa.gov)

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