

READING MATTERS

Third
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



We are adjusting to the impact of not receiving our state funding in this past legislative session. The loss of our colleagues is felt deeply, and we know that having our primary phone line as voicemail only is having an impact on you, our patrons. We appreciate your patience with us, and we are doing our best to call you back promptly and make sure we meet your reading needs. Our building remains closed to the public, but you are welcome to call us at 800-542-0866 or email wtbbl@sos.wa.gov to make an appointment to come see us in person.

The new digital talking book players, the DA2s, have arrived and are being sent to patrons who had previously requested one. The DA2 offers several

new features including WI-FI connectivity so you can download books and magazines directly from BARD to the device, Bluetooth connectivity so you can listen to books and magazines with Bluetooth-enabled speakers or headphones, and 28 GB of internal storage to store books and magazines for easy access. If you are interested in receiving the new player, call or email the library. You do not need to return your current player to receive one of the new DA2s.

If you haven't listened to it already, I encourage you to try out our podcast, Literary Notes. Literary Notes features interviews with authors and is released every two weeks on Thursdays. You can find it anywhere you get podcasts or by visiting wtbbl.org and selecting Literary Notes. We've reached over 600 downloads and have had some great interviews including Eva Walker and Jacob Uitti talking about **The Sound of Seattle: 101 Songs that Shaped a City** ([DBC31177](#) in progress) and Anna Zivarts talking about her book, **When Driving is Not an Option: Steering Away from Car Dependency** ([DBC30189](#) in progress).

On the cover: Youth patrons check out a parrot at a Summer Reading event

Thank you for your continued support of WTBBL, WTBBL staff, our volunteers, and this service that means so much to so many. I would love to hear from you about why WTBBL matters in your life and how our services make a difference. You can send your thoughts to me at danielle.miller@sos.wa.gov.

If you have the ability to support us with a donation, it will help us bridge the gap in funding as we work to get state funding in the next legislative session. Thank you and happy reading.

1

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library



WTBBL has been celebrating summer with the artsy theme, “Color Our World,” since June, and it’s been a great program for our participating Summer Readers. Not only have they gotten weekly activity packets full of art supplies, creative prompts, and suggested reading, but we’ve also been able to host some amazing events! WTBBL worked in tandem with the Seattle Public Library and Woodland Park Zoo for the third year on an inclusive Disability Pride event in July, featuring multisensory activities and a braille-enhanced StoryWalk. We hope to do this again next year, so come check it out if you didn’t get the chance!

In August, we hosted a fantastic, feathered

friend show put on by the local Flight Club Foundation—an organization dedicated to supporting conservation efforts and educating youth with the help of their bird ambassadors. This was a fun and informative event. Special thanks to the handlers and all involved! 2025 Summer Readers also participated in a Reading Challenge, which resulted in three Grand Prize winners out of those who returned a completed Reading Log. Great job, everyone!

Want more Youth Services news? Be sure to subscribe to **DOTS: WTBBL’s Youth Patron Newsletter**, sent periodically to your email inbox. More information can be found on the Youth Pages of wtbbl.org.

Don’t forget to vote!

Election Day is November 4, and ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. Washington voters can register and vote until the 8 p.m. deadline. King County Elections offers Accessible Voting Units (AVUs) at their Renton HQ and Vote Centers, allowing voters to listen to ballots and use braille keypads. Staff can assist with registration, updates, and election questions. Find locations at kce.wiki/VoteCenter or call 206-296-8683.

Outside King County? Contact your county auditor for accessibility options.

NEW AUDIOBOOKS

BY JOHN PAI

ADULT NONFICTION

[DBC19330](#) **Seattle's Olympic Sculpture Park: A Place for Art, Environment, and an Open Mind** by Mimi Gardner Gates & Renee Devine

The Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park, where Alexander Calder's "The Eagle" soars over the waters of Puget Sound and Roxy Paine's "Split" glistens in the rain, stands out as an exemplary civic project: an urban park filled with iconic art, free and open to all. Featuring five site-specific works from artists, an abandoned brownfield was transformed into a dynamic green space. Seamlessly uniting art, urban infrastructure, and ecology, it captures the unique character of the Pacific Northwest and the majestic Olympic Mountains. Using the park as a model for creating innovative civic spaces through public-private partnerships, this stunning book is a vital resource for museum professionals, architects, urban planners, students, and art lovers. 2021. Narrated by Winfield Hobbs; Reviewed by Steve Zon



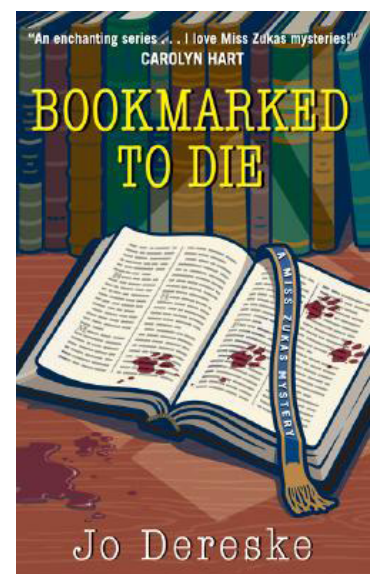
[DBC19256](#) **Daniel J. Evans: An Autobiography** by Daniel J. Evans

Daniel Evans was a major force in Washington state government for over 30 years. He led reform efforts as a young state legislator, served three terms as governor, and finished his political career as a U.S. Senator. He was known for his support of environmental issues and higher education. 2021. Narrated by John Ogliore; Reviewed by Carol Tobin

ADULT FICTION

[DBC19264](#) **Bookmarked to Die [#9, Miss Zukas Mysteries]** by Jo Dereske

Miss Zukas is having a midlife crisis for her 42nd birthday. Her cat has disappeared, and her boss has forced her into group therapy sessions where two participants have died. Miss Zukas isn't supposed to investigate, but she can't resist. 2006. Narrated by Betsy Haddox; Reviewed by Connie Cheng



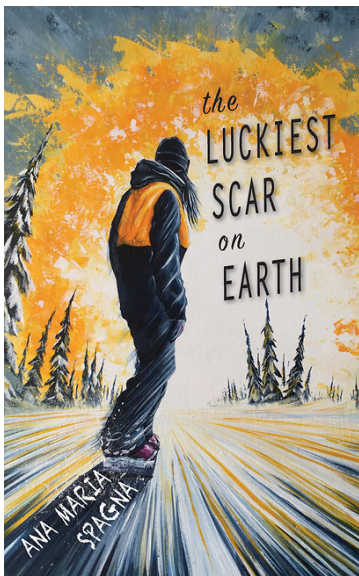
3

YOUNG ADULT/JUVENILE FICTION

[DBC15806](#) **Girl Warrior** by Carmen Peone

Charnaye Toulou has her sights pinned on winning the World Famous Suicide Horse Race during the Omak Stampede. Her desire is to win the purse in order to help her paraplegic father improve living conditions while proving Native women can be warriors. One bully and several anonymous threatening letters try and stop her. So when she hooks up with relatives and a horse that can take her the distance in this rite-of-passage horse race, she begins the rigorous training it takes to become "King of the Hill," or in her case "Queen". 2018.

Narrated by Shadzeeda Sperry; Reviewed by Judy Ogliore



[DBC15803](#) **The Luckiest Scar on Earth** by Ana Maria Spagna

When Charlotte has to move from her beloved Rocky Mountains in Colorado to Washington State, she plans to leave her snowboard - and her racing dreams - behind. Instead, her board propels her into a relationship with her father, a fight to save the local ski resort, and a new definition of "home". 2017.

Narrated by Beth Larimore; Reviewed by Amy Cork

[DBC19180](#) **Coming Back** by K.L. Denman

After surviving a horrific car accident and developing PTSD, Julie seeks out a therapy animal. That's how she meets Scarlett, a horse with some emotional baggage of her own. Can the two learn to heal together? 2019.

Narrated by Dina Trageser; Reviewed by Lauren Brau



NEW BRAILLE BOOKS

BY TRACI TIMMONS

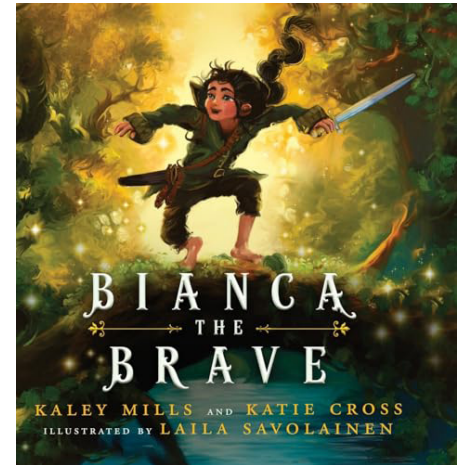
Katie Cross Books

Inland Pacific Northwest author and illustrator Katie Cross has written a young adult fantasy series called “The Network Series” and has developed a series of picture books, along with author Kayley Mills, that introduces young readers to The Network Series characters. You’ll hear more about the series in a future issue, but for now, we want to introduce you to her picture books:

[BRP016202](#) **Bianca the Brave [#1, Alkaran Children's Books]** by Kayley Mills and Katie Cross

Lay down your sword. When Bianca Monroe is running through the forest, tragedy strikes. To save her beloved trees and creatures, she must learn the most important lesson of all. This endearing and powerful story reminds readers of all ages that a battle is often before us. But sometimes, all we need to do is stop, see, and lay down our sword. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2023.

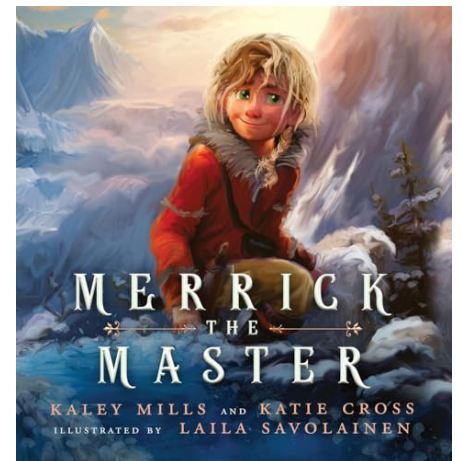
Transcriber: Pam Lorenz; Proofreaders: Abby Traverse and Courtney Stover



[BRP016201](#) **Merrick the Master [#2, Alkaran Children's Books]** by Kayley Mills and Katie Cross

Merrick is a master at almost everything ... until he's not. The ultimate test of a Master's ability is to shoot an arrow straight to the target. Merrick keeps missing, which leads him to the top of a mountain where only the Bowyer can help. Can Merrick find the perseverance and patience within to shoot straight and true? Or will he give up and never become an Alkarran Master? This is a story of a boy who learns that not everything good is a result of power and might. Sometimes one must learn to slow the mind, calm the breath, and patiently wait for the exact right moment. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2024.

Transcriber: Pam Lorenz; Proofreaders: Abby Traverse and Courtney Stover



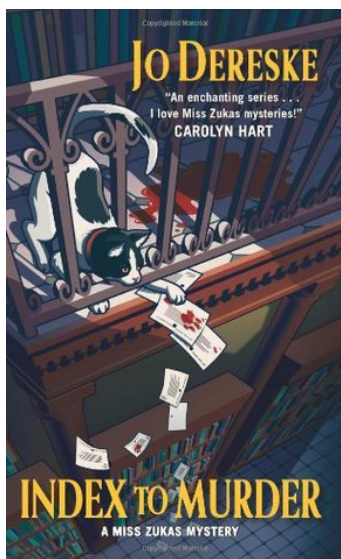
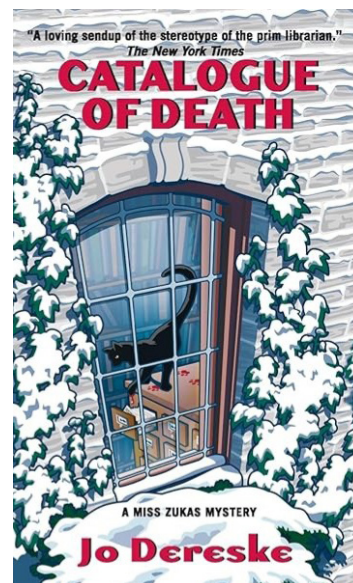
Great news! The WTBBL Braille Department is putting books on BARD again! We thank you for your patience and are excited to be able to share braille books with you this way once more. Highlights of books recently added include:

Three books from the Miss Zukas Mysteries series by Jo Dereske:

[BRC10957](#) **Catalogue of Death [#10, Miss Zukas Mysteries]**

Construction begins on a new library for Bellehaven, a gift of Franklin Harrington, scion of old Bellehaven money, when an explosion destroys the library site, killing the benefactor and a penny-pinching city finance czar. Helma Zukas soon discovers secrets and shady dealings from start to finish in the library—secrets worth killing for. 2007.

Transcriber: Karen Hara



[BRC01956](#) **Index to Murder [#11, Miss Zukas Mysteries]**

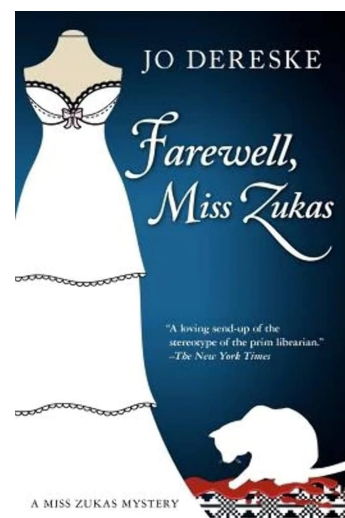
Miss Zukas's friend Ruth had two of her paintings of an old lover stolen. That man died in mysterious circumstances. In Miss Zukas's world, one mysterious death often leads to another. 2008.

Transcriber: Gail Viscione

[BRC10956](#) **Farewell, Miss Zukas [#12, Miss Zukas Mysteries]**

In Farewell, Miss Zukas, the twelfth and concluding Miss Zukas mystery, the chief finally pops the question to Miss Helma Zukas, librarian par excellence. But before Bellehaven, Washington can rejoice, Helma's mother and Aunt Em are robbed and the alleged robber lies dead - or does he?

Transcriber: Gail Viscione



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BY HAZELLE WITHERS



At WTBBL, Michael Memmo has become a familiar voice. Now narrating his 75th audiobook, Michael has spent nearly a decade volunteering as an audiobook narrator and reviewer. He was recently honored with an award from WTBBL during our volunteer appreciation celebration, recognizing his incredible achievement of over 2,000 hours of service.

Long before stepping into the recording booth, he read the entire **Lord of the Rings trilogy** ([DB123864](#), [DB123865](#),

[DB123866](#), [BR009745](#), [BR009747](#), [BR009749](#)), out loud to his wife while she crocheted. However, his love for the sci-fi genre began long before this. During his first trip to the Seattle Public Central Library at 10 years old, he borrowed **Tunnel in the Sky** ([DB013216](#)) by Robert Heinlein. "Everything changed from then on," he recalls. This book introduced him to the amazing world of science fiction. Ever since, he has been an avid fan of the genre and has had a passion for reading – even doing so aloud for family on road trips!

Today, Michael is reading (and narrating) **Rock and Roll Archaeologist: How I Chased Down Kurt's Stratocaster, the 'Layla' Guitar, and Janis's Boa** ([DBC31121](#) in progress) by Peter Blecha. This book is of special interest to him given his deep ties to music. Raised in Seattle's music scene where his mother owned a club, Michael spent his youth in venues and around musicians. He later became one himself, and performed at the Northwest Folklife Festival several times.

WTBBL has been a constant in Michael's life and holds a long-standing place in his memory of Seattle. He even remembers when the building was still a car dealership! Now, it is where he merges his love of books, storytelling, and passions. Through every recording, Michael shares not just stories but also a lifetime of experience as a reader and Seattleite.

WAYS TO HELP BRIDGE THE GAP!

BY JENNIFER KILBOURN

A hearty and heartfelt Thank You! to the many patrons who stepped up as soon as you heard the news of devastating cutbacks at WTBBL and gave generously during this May's fundraiser, GiveBig 2025. The outpouring of not only financial support, but your words of empathy and encouragement have helped us all as staff as service reductions take their toll in these early days.

Your financial support can bridge the gap to keep WTBBL's programs and services continuing until the state legislature can restore our staff positions and fully fund this critical public service. Being fully staffed and funded will ensure that WTBBL patrons can continue reading and receiving the support that has become a lifeline in today's world.

Please consider a gift in an amount meaningful to you today. Ways you can support:

- Mail a check. Please use the enclosed reply envelope in this newsletter.
- Donate online – either a monthly gift or one time donation at wtbbl.org. Become a monthly donor by selecting "Automatically repeat this gift every month" before entering your payment information.
- Employee Matching Gifts – check with your employer about this opportunity. The EIN for the ALL Foundation of Washington (formerly Washington Heritage Center Trust) is 26-3135760.
- Make a Qualified Charitable Donation. If you are 70 ½ years of age and older, you may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, also known as a charitable IRA rollover.
- Gifts of Stock. The ALL Foundation of Washington works with the Seattle Foundation to accept Gifts of Common Stock. \$5,000 is the minimum amount which can be accepted for Common Stock.

Please be aware that the ALL Foundation of Washington and the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library cannot and do not offer tax advice. Consult your professional financial advisors about what may be best for you.

If you have questions about the ways you may be able to bridge the gap, please call 360-800-7058 or email Jennifer.Kilbourn@sos.wa.gov.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Thank you to all our donors, patrons, and champions who supported WTBBL from April 1 to June 30, 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.

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

Anonymous

Jeffrey S. **Abrams**

Rosemary and Randy
Adamski

Soren **Andersen**

Michael **Anderson**

Theresa and Tate
Anderson

Deanne and Michael
Andrews

Dana **Arell**

David and Lydia **Arnold**

Alice **Arrington**

Colette and Andrew
Arvidson

Warren and Eunice
Askov

Glen and Kelly
Baughman

Willard **Bean**

Diane **Beason**

Michelle **Bell**, Ph.D.

Richard **Berndt** and
Erin **Hayes**

David **Berrian**

Tammy **Bielas**

Michael **Bielkiewicz**

Jane **Blackwell**

Camille **Blanchette**

Jeffrey **Blank**

Dorothy **Bocian**

Nico **Bodi**

Cheryl **Bodle**

Randy and Brigitte
Bolerjack

Lois **Braden**

Kent **Breidenstein** and
Dana **Marmion**

Cleo Brooks

David Bucholtz

Craig Buhler

Tonia **Burkett**

Ren **Caldwell**

Alco **Canfield**

Wanda **Cashion**

Pamela **Center**

Ximena **Chalita**

Carolyn **Chase**

Young **Choi**

Egon and Lynn
Christensen

Dora **Clepper**

Erin **Clepper**

Rick **Coggins**

Patricia **Combs-Blake**

Fawn **Conner**

Dorene **Cornwell**

Geraldine **Craves**

Sandra and John
Crosland

Erma **Cross**

Virginia and Arthur
Crow

Thomas **Cummings**

Marsha **Cutting**

Robert **Daniel**

Mark **Danner**

Sharyl **Darlington**

Steve **Dassel**, M.D.

Ariel **Davidson**

Drew **Davidson**

Mark **Davidson**

Charlene **Davies**

Bur **Davis** and Keala
Hagmann

Gerald R. **Day**

Anneke and Saskia
de Jonge

Harriet **Denison**

Wesley **Derby**

Kate **Dimitry**

Kirsten **Dlugo**

Sarah **Dooley**

Myra **Dorsey**

Sandra **Driscoll**

Geneva **DuBois**

Simone Irene **Dunye**

Jane Therese **Elliott**

Paul and Barbara **Elliott**

Lynda **Emel**

Shana **Emile**

Amy **Erickson**

Janice M. **Esterly**

Patricia **Ferguson**

Carolyn **Ferrell**

Alberta **Finley**

Mary **Forster**

Frederic **Freeman**

Rebecca **Fretwell**

Kathyrn **Fridley**

Marcia **Fromhold**

Randy **Gainer**

K **Gaines**

Adair **Gates**

Reginald **George**

Julia and Kevin
Gerhard

Robert **Gidley**

Juanita **Gilfry**

Joanne **Glendenning**

CJ **Glenn**

Edward **Godfrey**

Mary **Graden**

John **Grant**

Mr. Eric **Grob**

Trellising **Growth**

Arden and Marcia
Gustafson

Alvin **Gutterman**

Elizabeth **Haddox**

Sally Jo **Hagen**

Debbie and Leo **Hager**

Sangyun **Hahn**

Jean **Hall**

Bradley **Harvie**

TJ **Hatfield**

Penelope and Norris
Hazelton

Ronald **Heath**

Gregory **Heino**

Herrick **Heitman**

Janet **Herman**

Louise **Highleyman**

Marcea **Horst**

Carlotta **Howe**

Casey **Huckaby**

Stanley **Hung**

Paulette **Hunter**

Ted **Hunter**

Gregory **Jack**

Sonja **Jacobs**

George **Johnson**

Helen and Budd
Johnson

Karen **Johnson**

Sue and Stanley
Johnson

Kathryn **Jones**

Joanne and Dale **Julian**

R **Jung**

Patricia **Kahn**

Jessie **Kavanagh**

Dana **Kelly**

Muriel **Kelly**

Michael **Kerstetter**

Catherine **Kim**

Diane **King**

Debora **Kirchner**

Alice **Klein**

Janet **Kovalchik**

Candace **Kramer**

Jayne Ann **Krentz**

Patricia **Kushmerick**

Janet **Kwok**

JoAnn **Landis**

David and Patrice
Lange

Ana Marie **Larson**

Anne **LaValla Curran**

Howard **Lazzarini**

Eun-Gyong **Lee-Rossow**

David **Lehnis**

Sandy and Paul

Lillengreen

Mary **Lindberg**

Sarah **Lippeck**

Stephanie **Lucash**

Alice **MacDonald**

Denise and Gary
Mackenstadt

Raymond and Patricia
Maddix

Lorrina **Madinger**

Jennifer **Mahan and**
Elizabeth **Lyman**

Courtney **Maheras**

Scott **Malyszka** and
Robin **Mandell**

John and Jan **Mantle**

Dorothy **Marks**

Richard and Shirley
Martinez

Connie **Masulunes**

Mary **Mattson**

Deanna S. **Mattson-**
Walker

Katie **Maynard**

Tim **McCorcle**

James **McCullough**

Craig **McDonald**

Alex and Linda **McGregor**

Patricia and Steven **Miles**

Danielle **Miller**

Lupine **Miller**

Russell and Francesca
Minas

John **Mollan**

Florence **Munat**

Margarita **Munoz**

Keiko **Namekata**

Naomi Namekata	Carolyn Priest-Dorman	Pam Schwartz
Annette Nettles	Carolyn and Geoffrey Proehl	Robert Scott
Marc Nordlund	Irma Prus	Christina Sears
Terry Norris	Emily Ramos	Shelly Shaprio and Glenn Amster
Martin November	Lauren Reed	Marilyn Sheldon
Barbara and Thomas Nubile	Ann Reiter	Ormand and Sue Sherwood
Colleen O'Brien	Janet Richard	Martha Sidlo
John and Judy Ogliore	Marilee Richards	Thomas Simard
Gerard O'Leary	Sheri Richardson	Kathy Skipper
Phyllis and John Olson	Kathleen Riesterer	Marc and Kay Slonim
Martha Oman	Paul Roess	Terry Smith
Peter O'Toole	Mary Rogers	Betty Smith
Jennifer Ott	Stuart Russell	Sharwain Smith
Larry and Janice Otto	Carla Rutschman	Thelma Smith
Shannon Ozog Somes	Joan Sahlin	Peggy and Jack Snell
John Pai	Stephen and Diana Saine	Nancy and Allen Soderblom
Amy Panzarasa	Marilyn Salgado	Matthew Solovay
Vicki Perry	Sina Sam	Jennifer Soltis
Doris and Eric Perser	Brian Sargee	Shadzeeda Sperry
Brian Peterson	Kathy Savory	Jeanette Stanton
Kevin Pitman	Barbara Scamman	Jordon Star
Skott Pope	Bernadette Scherff	Robert Stelmack
Laura Powelson	Mary Schlosser	

Brentley **Stephens**

Kylen **Stevenson**

Bernadine **Stillwell**

Christopher **Stone**

Rachel **Stoneking**

Trudy **Stotz** and Leone
Craig

Therese **Stover**

Gordon **Strand**

Norman **Streutker**

Nancy **Suter**

Tom and Marilyn
Taggart

Jaime **Taht**

Kacey **Talley**

Mary Jane **Taylor**

Randy **Tedrow**

Robert **Telzrow**

Freida **Tesch**

Ashley **Thirkill**

Dorothy **Thompson**

Richard and Donna
Thorkildson

Melanie **Throckmorton**

Shaydell **Tigner**

Jessica **Timm**

Caroline **Tobin**

Rex and Jean **Tolstrup**

Abigail **Traverse**

Daniel **Trefethen**

Theodore and Ellen
Tsoneff

Melissa **Tyler**

Lea **Vaughn Dobel**

Susan **Vetto**

Sherri **Von Wolfe**

Diane **Wade**

Janelle **Walhout**

Alexandra **Walker**

Patricia **Walker**

Kathleen and Larry **Wan**

Judith and William
Waring

Joy **Westcott Junkert**

Carolyn **White**

Cyndee **Wiese**

Ian **Wilder**

Linda **Wilder**

Rosalind **Wilkes**

Cathy **Wilson**

Hazelle **Withers**

Thomas **Wojciechowski**

Phyllis **Woodman**

Cory **Woods**

Jeff **Wortley**

Medda **Zegergis**

Christian **Zobel**

**The Aberdeen Review
Club**

**Bechtold Charitable
Donation Fund**

**The Blecha-Maharaj
Charitable Fund**

**Cunliffe Family
Charitable Fund**

Day Out For the Blind

Docusign

**Estate of Clarice T.
Vosgien**

Gates Foundation

**The Mark Wales and
Arlyn Purcell Fund**

Moses Lake Lions Club

Salal Credit Union

**Skagit and Island
Counties Council of the
Blind**

Starbucks Corporation In memory of:

United Blind of Seattle Donna **Amos**

Wylde Family Richard **Bodle**

Foundation Spencer **Brooks**

Deborah **Brown**

In honor of: Sheila **Coleman**

Tate **Anderson** J. Patrick **Dobel**

Holly **Arrington** David **Eric**

R. Steven **Bird** Neal **Fridley**

Louise **Blanchette** Dort **Holmlund**

Drew **Davidson** Jo **Mackay Imeson**

Sandra **Driscoll** Carl **Jarvis**

Beverly **Engel** Jeremy **Stanton**

Courtney **Maheras**

Ella **Andersen** and
Elaine **Nordlund**

Melanie and Edith
Throckmorton

Hazelle **Withers**

Grandma Mary **Wood**

Zoe

The hard-working staff
and volunteers that are
the heart of WTBBL

**Questions about
donating?**

Please contact

jennifer.kilbourn@sos.wa.gov

**WASHINGTON TALKING BOOK
& BRAILLE LIBRARY**

2021 9TH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WA 98121-2783



WASHINGTON
Secretary of State

Washington State Library

FREE MATTER
for the Blind
or Handicapped

NONPROFIT ORG
1929837

**Volunteer Courtney S. stands in front
of the WTBBL Production Library**

