

Reading Matters is provided in text, pdf, Web-braille and audio versions on our website at <http://www.wtbbl.org/newsletter.aspx>.

READING MATTERS

Winter 2018
David Junius, Editor

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library
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THAT ALL MAY READ...

From the Director by Danielle Miller

Every three years WTBBL surveys our patrons to see how we are doing, which services are being used, and how we can continue to improve. Six hundred people responded to our 2017 survey. Some highlights include:

- 79 percent of respondents rated WTBBL “excellent.”
- 62 percent said WTBBL services benefit their quality of life.
- 45 percent do not use the internet.
- 33 percent also use public library audio books.
- 45 percent were referred to WTBBL by a professional.

A full summary of the 2017 WTBBL patron survey results is available on our website. Overall, patrons are happy with our services and in all categories, where the average service rating was a 4 or higher on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being “excellent.” According to 77 percent of respondents, WTBBL is innovative and continues to offer relevant services.

Looking to the future, WTBBL has been involved in the Washington State Library’s strategic planning process. Our clear goal is to expand the reach and effectiveness of WTBBL with innovative initiatives to increase

overall user population, establish and strengthen borrower relationships, and promote high-quality, accessible library and information resources.

In order to reach that goal, we will pursue these key strategies:

- Grow outreach and public awareness initiatives, developing strategic campaigns to connect specific eligible user groups with library service.
- Enhance access to education, information, and literacy support for Washington's youth through innovative programming, outreach and statewide partnerships.
- Increase access to WTBBL audiobooks through more local production in English and Spanish, duplication on demand, personalized readership programs, and download instruction and support.
- Build on existing development platforms to identify creative media and marketing endeavors and realign volunteer priorities and strengthen our volunteer base.

We've already made many steps toward our goal and we look forward to an exciting and productive 2018. Thank you for all your support. Please stay in touch, and happy reading.

A Message from State Librarian Cindy Aden

The Washington State Legislature has begun its 2018 session. This year it is a short session, expected to end by March. These short sessions are breathtaking in their pace. Legislators know bill cutoff deadlines are tight, so there is a flurry of new bills and hearings.

For the State Library and WTBBL, our outstanding issue remains a new State Library building to improve service and support for libraries and library users around the state. You may recall that in addition to distributing federal funding to libraries around the state, the State Library provides reference and research support for state and federal documents and Pacific Northwest history. A new building for the staff and these services is long overdue.

In addition to keeping our eye on the Legislature here in Washington, we are watching the federal budget in Washington D.C. If you are following this, you know that Congress has been unable to pass a budget, and continues to pass continuing resolutions. Until a budget is passed, we

remain in limbo about the long-term status of our federal funding. Further, Congress must reauthorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which issues Library Services and Technology Act grant money. LSTA grants make up one-third of the funding for WTBBL.

We will continue to monitor activities concerning the IMLS reauthorization and LSTA grant appropriation. If the situation is nearing a critical point, we will alert you.

In spite of all this activity and uncertainty, WTBBL is marching forward. It has full staffing for the first time in many months, including an energized new youth services librarian, assistant manager and receptionist. I hope you have had a chance to meet our newest staff members. It is such a pleasure to support an institution so dedicated to excellence and innovation!

Enjoy these winter months, and thanks as always for your support.

Language in the Library by Tien Triggs

My Vietnamese grandmother and my husband's Cajun grandfather never had the opportunity to meet, but I imagine that they would have greatly enjoyed swapping stories in their shared childhood language, French. My Bà Nội learned just enough English to get by after moving to the United States in 1975, and PaPa Allen only learned English when he started grade school. As they both approached their nineties, they peppered their conversations with more French words and phrases, and in the case of Bà Nội, she stopped speaking English altogether and only communicated in either French or Vietnamese.

Both were avid readers, enthusiastically consuming the written word in almost any format and in several languages, dictionaries close at hand. Bà Nội encouraged me to read and taught me French and Vietnamese in the summers. PaPa Allen would ask me to read him letters from his Belgian pen pals and taught me the Cajun equivalents to French words. They had a deep emotional connection to the language, and just hearing someone speaking French was enough to bring smiles to their faces.

While foreign language talking books can be hard to come by in languages other than Spanish, WTBBL does offer some in other languages

and has a modest collection of French titles available through BARD. Some titles in our catalog include:

DBF 00055. *Contes de Maupassant, Volume 1* by Guy de Maupassant
Maupassant was a prolific writer, producing around 300 short stories in his lifetime. This small sample contains perhaps his most famous story, "La Parure," ("The Necklace") "Un Duel," and "Le Baptême." French language. 1968. Narrated by Georges Riquier.

DB 31912 *Anthologie, littérature française de la Louisiane* by Barry Jean Ancelet and Mathé Allain.

Dr. Ancelet has devoted his career to collecting and documenting Cajun and Creole literature. This anthology include poetry, essays, oral literature, and contemporary works. French language. 1981. Narrated by Michel Moinot.

DBF 99925 *L'ombre chinoise* by Georges Simenon.

Commissaire Jules Maigret is Simenon's most enduring character, and featured in more than 100 of his novels and short stories, as well as in numerous films, TV adaptations, radio dramas, and even comics. In this early novel, Maigret investigates a crime at Place des Vosges, encountering a seedy group of suspects whose unhappy lives may or may not have been enough to drive them to murder. French language. 1976. Narrated by Mme. Rachel Cathoud.

News from Youth Services by Erin Groth

The winter chill might make hibernation with a good book sound tempting, but things here in the WTBBL Youth Services Department are as busy as ever. There's plenty of cheer to go around and work to be done!

The event of the season was our "Welcome Winter at WTBBL" party, which was held on Saturday, January 6. About 30 patrons, families and friends attended what was a wintery extravaganza complete with a "polar bear blubber" experiment, tactile games and puzzles, indoor "snow," and our very own igloo (warmly constructed out of cardboard and recycled braille paper). The event served as a way to introduce me as the new youth services librarian, and for our patrons to mingle with those they might not see too often. It was a blast!

We continue to hold Multisensory Storytimes every Friday, now at 11 a.m. They are open to children of all abilities up to age 5 and their caregivers. Stop by with your little one and check it out! We have tons of fun singing, dancing, and exploring stories with all our senses. I'll be bringing a version of Multisensory Storytime to a Parent-Infant Playgroup in Vancouver this coming March and look forward to sharing the program more in the future.

Speaking of March, our annual Braille Challenge will be held this year on Saturday, March 3. More information on registration is coming soon. Students in grades 1-12 who can read UEB are encouraged to participate. To get a feel for the flow of the Braille Challenge, I assisted with the Washington State School for the Blind's event in January, and was excited to see the campus and meet their students.

I want thank our patrons, staff and colleagues for their warm welcome into the WTBBL family. It has been such a great first few months working here, and I can't wait to collaborate on plenty of new ideas, programs, and events. I'm looking forward to cohosting the next meeting of the Blind Youth Consortium here at WTBBL, reaching out to schools, attending conferences and working with different organizations in the future to bring you all the best services we can.

If you have any questions about programs, outreach, or Youth Services at WTBBL, please contact me at erin.groth@sos.wa.gov or by phone at 206-615-1253.

Audio Updates by John Pai

Here at WTBBL, we continue to churn out books! Here is a sample of books from this last quarter.

For history buffs who love a deeper inside scoop, we recommend:

DBC 248 *The Dillinger Days* by John Toland.

A chronicle of thirteen blood-soaked months during 1933-1934 when John Dillinger and his contemporaries in crime — including Baby Face Nelson, Ma Barker, Machine Gun Kelly, Bonnie Parker, Clyde Barrow, and Pretty Boy Floyd — terrorized America. 1995. Narrated by Dan Shields.

DBC 6853 *Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and his Quest for Justice* by Lorraine K. Bannai.

Fred Korematsu's decision to resist FDR's Executive Order 9066, which gave authority for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, was initially the case of a young man following his heart: he wanted to remain in California with his white fiancée. However, he quickly came to realize that it was more than just a personal choice. It was a matter of basic human rights. 2015. Narrated by Gregg Porter.

DBC 199 *Made in Hanford: The Bomb That Changed the World* by Hill Williams.

In 1942 the thinly settled area around Hanford, Washington, offered the open space, access to water and abundant electricity that made it an ideal site for a massive, top secret facility to make plutonium in the race to develop atomic weapons. Small towns and farms disappeared. New cities were built, and the nuclear waste is still there. 2011. Narrated by Mary Schlosser.

For our mystery fans, we have a favorite homegrown author as well as a new voice. Both spin tales with actively charged story lines.

DBC 6885 *Clam Wake* (#29 in the *Bed-and-Breakfast Mystery* series) by Mary Daheim.

It's January and innkeeper Judith McMonigle Flynn is suffering from cabin fever. so it sounds like a great idea when her cousin Renie suggests they housesit a relative's house on Whoopee Island. Finding a dead body on the beach was bad enough, but things get worse when people think she might be the killer. 2015. Narrated by Jay Lane.

DBC 6805 *Lye in Wait* (#1 in the *Home Crafting Mystery* series) by Cricket McRae.

A soap maker who uses lye to make her products discovers her handyman dead in her studio. He was killed with lye, but the soap maker has all her supplies locked up tight. The detective has his own ideas about the situation. The soap maker wants to search down some clues herself, even when that brings her into danger. 2007. Narrated by Natalie Peterson.

And finally for our young adult readers, we have new titles that are thought-provoking and adrenaline-inducing.

DBC 6689 *Playing a Part* by Daria Wilke.

Grisha adores everything about the Moscow puppet theater where his parents work, and spends as much time there as he can. But life outside the theater is not so wonderful. The boys in Grisha's class bully him mercilessly, and his own grandfather says hateful things about how he's not "masculine" enough. Life goes from bad to worse when Grisha learns that Sam, his favorite actor and mentor, is moving: He's leaving the country to escape the extreme homophobia he faces in Russia. For grades 6-9. 2015. Narrated by Owen Patrick.

DBC 405 *Super Human* by Michael Owen Carroll.

A ragtag group of young superheroes takes on a powerful warrior who is transported from four thousand years in the past to enslave the modern world. 2010. For high school and older readers. Narrated by Kevin Pitman.

These are some great new reads. Enjoy the reawakening from winter and the hope a new spring will bring!

Donors from October 1 to December 31, 2017

Your gifts come to us in many forms, from bequests to matching gifts, and many of you participated in our recent annual campaign. THANK YOU! Many gave in memory of a loved one. Others gave through their workplace, and some chose to give monthly through our recurring donor program. We accept gifts of all kinds, now including cars! We are extremely grateful for each and every one.

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John McCallum
Warren Mitchell
Edith Mollan
Joyce Olsten
Linell O'Neil
Katie & Neil Parker
Joan Peterson
Anna Schneider
Frances Schwendiman
Raymond Tayer
Russell Zurkan

In Honor Of:

Alan Bentson

Rosemary Chaput
Gerda Haas
Marilyn Miller
Caroline Reale
Leona Turosik

Did you know you can donate your car to WTBBL, whether it's running or not? We have partnered with CARS Inc. to turn your car into a donation for our library! Call Development Director Laura Mott for more information at (360) 902-4171 or email her at laura.mott@sos.wa.gov.

SAVE THE DATE for GIVEBIG on May 9, 2018!