

*Bulletin Board*

*Spring 2016 Newsletter*

***What’s Been Happening at WTBBL!***

Hello Readers!

WTBBL statistics were very good again in 2015. The library circulated 374,708 books to 6,906 registered patrons and 589 institutions.

As we told you previously, WTBBL had its first digital audiobook, **DBC04701**, **A Tale of Two Soldiers: The Unexpected Friendship Between a WWII American Jewish Sniper and a German Military Pilot** by Max Gendelman, added to the BARD database. This DBC book is available for any NLS patron in the world to download. Already over 300 people have downloaded this title and the six titles added following it are proving to be just as popular.

The number of items in the database is growing rapidly. In addition to the locally produced DBCs, about 1,000 commercially recorded books were added last year. This means over 3,000 titles were added last year. Most years, about 2,000 titles were added.

In 2015, WTBBL’s outreach grew to more than 29,477 people with 113 exhibits and presentations.

In March, WTBBL said good-bye to Pharlin (Circulation) who moved out of state.

I recently attended the 2016 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. NLS continues to keep pace with the changing world of technology.



NLS has introduced a new logo design. The tag line remains **That All May Read**, reinforcing the commitment to serving all eligible patrons.

In the Research and Development area, the NLS Technology team is developing more ways to make Cloud-based (Internet) systems effective for the NLS program. This is sometimes referred to as “push-pull”: titles can either be “pulled” from the Internet “Cloud” or “pushed” directly to the patron by automatically downloading to the NLS player or another device. Talk about Cloud-based systems is exciting, but in the development stages. Be assured that when these changes are introduced, WTBBL and NLS will not leave behind patrons without Internet access or computer skills.

A prototype of a more affordable refreshable braille display, the [Orbit Reader 20](http://www.orbitresearch.com/news_details.php?id=13), was introduced at the recent CSUN Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference. As braille devices drop in price, NLS approaches their goal of providing free refreshable braille readers to patrons. I expect there could be developments in the next few years, but production schedules and costs are yet to be worked out.

Recent changes to the BARD program include:

* Downloadable locally produced books from across the country;
* A sleep timer on the BARD iOS app, and
* An Android BARD app.

Sometime in 2016 expect to see the introduction of the BARD Media Manager app. The Media Manager will sync a patron's reading across devices making it easy to start listening to a title on one device, then pick up where it left off on another device seamlessly. The Media Manager also will provide better search capabilities.

The Marrakesh Treaty is due to be ratified in the U.S. soon. This will help move forward the standardization of equipment. More standardization will make devices easier to use because downloading won’t depend on whether the title is from NLS or a commercial vendor. Ratification of the treaty will also increase the availability of materials in languages other than English.

The United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) has introduced iOS and Android currency reader apps. **Eyenote®** is an app built on the Apple iOS platform and

is available to download on the Apple App Store℠. The **IDEAL®** Currency Identifier is a free downloadable app that operates on the Android platform.  Patrons can still get a free currency reader by applying through WTBBL or directly with the BEP.

There was hopeful talk from Apple and Bookshare about devices and products being designed as accessible from the start, not retrofitted later. If e-books were “born digital” with standardized accessibility features, we may soon be experiencing the next revolution of accessible published works.

Keep reading and talking about us to your friends, *Linda*

***High Volume Player and Headphones***

NLS has developed a high-volume version of the digital talking book player for use by patrons who are hearing impaired. The player has been programmed to have an amplified volume up to 120 dB. The high-volume feature only works when using the high-volume player and specialized NLS-supplied stereo headphones. To apply, contact WTBBL or download an application from [www.loc.gov/nls/pdf/hvp.pdf](file:///P%3A%5Cramanz%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C82N4WTAZ%5Cwww.loc.gov%5Cnls%5Cpdf%5Chvp.pdf) and provide certification of hearing impairment by a physician or audiologist.

This new player and headphones replace the amplifier/headset accessory currently in use. Patrons will need to return their current digital player after receiving the high-volume player and headset. A return label will be included with the high-volume player.

***Stands For Use With SmartPhones***

A portable scanning stand can be useful when reading documents (especially with software such as the **National Federation of the Blind’s KNFB Reader**). [WTBBL does not endorse products or vendors.]

**Fopydo Scanning Stand for the Blind and Visually Impaired** [fopydo.com](http://fopydo.com)

The stand has guides to facilitate positioning of the camera phone and documents. It folds to fit in a tablet case. $12-$35 (+ shipping) depending on model.

**StandScan - Portable Photo & Document Scanner** [standscan.com](http://standscan.com/)

This document scanning stand is portable and foldable (into a standard computer bag) with built-in LED lighting. $49.95 (\*Free Shipping Worldwide)

**Giraffe Reader** [giraffe-reader.com](http://www.giraffe-reader.com/)

This orange-colored stand is available in versions that fit iPhones (up to 6 Plus). The stand was designed from the start to include blind people with tactile markings to help folding (CD sized) and a solid cradle at the top to hold your iPhone steady. $52

***New Wisconsin Titles Available***

ABLE (Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement) has produced more Wisconsin books for your reading pleasure. These titles will also be available on BARD.

Recent additions include:

* DBC04725 **Dead Deceiver, Book 11 of Loon Lake Mystery series** by Victoria Houston

- Loon Lake, Wisconsin is hosting an International Ice Fishing Festival when Rob Beltner reports his wife dead of a gunshot wound. Features Loon Lake Police Chief Lewellyn Ferris and her close friend, the retired dentist "Doc" Osborne.

* DBC04726 **Shot in the Dark** by Janet M. Whyte

- Goalball is a sport Micah loves to play, but when his degenerative eye condition flares-up and he is challenged by Liam, a new player, Micah must reconcile his differences and help his team win the championship. For Ages 9-13.

* DBC04734 **The Wisconsin Historical Society: Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories Since 1846** by John Zimm

- The Wisconsin Historical Society is older than the state itself. This story is full of exploits, perils, and hardy adventures, reflecting the history of our state.

* DBC04746 **Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster** by Svetlana Alexievich

- On April 26, 1986, a reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station exploded. Journalist Svetlana Alexievich, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, spoke with hundreds of people affected by the meltdown and presents their shocking narratives here.

***WTBBL Adult Book Club***

On Tuesday, April 12th, the WTBBL Book Club discussed the book **The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared** by Jonas Jonasson (DB75820 / Available on BARD). Centenarian Allan Karlsson led a life reminiscent of Forrest Gump with wacky encounters throughout his years. If you like this book, you may also enjoy **Forrest Gump** by Winston Groom (DB38876) or **The Life We Bury** by Allen Eskens (DB79908).

Many of the book club members enjoyed the book. It was fun to read the mix of Allan’s fictional life with historical events. **The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared** was released in theaters in 2013 and was directed by Felix Herngren. The movie is the third highest grossing Swedish film of all time.

Next we will meet on Tuesday, June 21st when we discuss **My Beloved World** by Sonia Sotomayor (DB76059 / Available on BARD).

- In her memoir, United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor recalls growing up with her Puerto Rican family in the Bronx and being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. She discusses her family life, Princeton and Yale education, and District Court experience. Bestseller. 2013.

*Here is the remaining schedule for 2016:*

##### Tuesday, August 23, 2016

**Dear John** by Nicholas Sparks

(9 hours 20 minutes) DB65315 / Available on BARD

##### Tuesday, October 25, 2016

**Orphan Train** by Christina Baker Kline

8 hours 23 minutes) DB76746 / Available on BARD

**Tuesday, December 13, 2016**

**Still Alice** by Lisa Genova

(8 hours 6 minutes) DB68429 / Available on BARD

Participating in the WTBBL book club is entertaining! You talk with friendly people. You read books that you may not otherwise consider. It can be fun to chitchat about books and movies, tips and tricks to help in everyday life, questions about WTBBL, BARD, and Newsline and common interests.

The book club meets on the phone using a toll free phone number. We meet on a Tuesday, every other month. You may participate from 1:30 to 2:30 pm and/or from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Both book clubs will read the same book and discuss it at different times on the same day.

For more information or to sign up to participate in the book club, please contact Becky at 1-414-286-6918 or ramanz@milwaukee.gov.

***Facebook Pages***



Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library has a Facebook page and now the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has one too. Log onto

Facebook, find and like us today!

***Mathematics Awareness Month!***

Commemorative categories for the month of April include Autism Awareness Month, Earth Month, National Poetry Month, and Parkinson’s Awareness Month. This list is devoted to the lesser known, Mathematics Awareness Month. If you would like to read some fun and intriguing books on mathematics, here are some titles for you:

* DB57054 **Quicksilver, Book 1 of Baroque Cycle** by Neal Stephenson (Science Fiction)
* DB67446 **Math Doesn’t Suck: How to Survive Middle School Math Without Losing Your Mind or Breaking a Nail** by Danica McKellar (For Grades 6-9, Technology)
* DB71169 **Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow into Troublesome Gaps—and What We Can Do About It** by Lise Eliot (Psychology)

* DB73150 **Here’s Looking at Euclid: A Surprising Excursion through the Astonishing World of Math** by Alex Bellos (Engineering and Technology)
* DB77461 **Thinking in Numbers: On Life, Love, Meaning, and Math** by Daniel Tammet (Science)
* DB81230 **The Mathematician’s Shiva** by Stuart Rojstaczer (Wisconsin Author, Fiction)
* DB82229 **Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi: A Math Adventure** by

Cindy Neuschwander (For Grades 2-4, Fantasy)

* DB82830 **Max’s Math** by Kate Banks (For Grades K-3, Fiction)
* DB83460 **Magic of Math: Solving for X and Figuring Out Why** by Arthur Benjamin (Science)

***WTBBL Outreach***

Look for WTBBL in upcoming months at the Collaborative Vision Conference in Stevens Point, the Washington County Senior Conference in West Bend, the 14th Annual Braille Games in Milwaukee, the Rehabilitation and Transition Conference in Wisconsin Dells, and the Foundation Fighting Blindness Wisconsin VisionWalk in Milwaukee.

Please contact Becky, WTBBL’s Outreach Librarian, to schedule a speaker or ask WTBBL to exhibit at your event this year. You can contact Becky at 414-286-6918 or ramanz@milwaukee.gov.

We enjoy exhibiting at resource fairs, conferences, and local events. We also provide speakers for events at support groups, nursing homes, senior centers, and libraries throughout Wisconsin.

***Schneider Family Book Award Winners***

The Schneider Family Book Award is for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience.

**Award for Birth through Grade School (Ages 0 to 8) Title:**

* BR21066 **Emmanuel’s Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah** by Laurie Ann Thompson

- Born in Ghana with one deformed leg, Emmanuel was raised to reach for his dreams. He hopped to and from school more than two miles each way, provided for his family, and eventually became a cyclist and disability activist. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3 and older readers. 2015.

**Awards for Best Middle Grade (Ages 11-13) Title:**

* DB80497 **Fish in a Tree** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

- Bullied and moved from different schools, sixth grader Ally creatively distracts anyone from discovering that she has problems reading. But one teacher, Mr. Daniels, helps her understand that she has dyslexia and encourages Ally to understand her feelings in a new way. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2015.

* DB80472 **The War That Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

- A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2015.

**Teen (Ages 14-18) Award Winner:**

* DB82326 **The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B** by Teresa Toten

- Adam struggles with his OCD therapy assignments, and his relationship with his divorced parents doesn't help matters. During a session at his OCD support group, however, he falls for fellow member Robyn and decides to save them both. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

***National Mobility Awareness Month!***

May is the month known for ALS, asthma, brain cancer, celiac disease, cystic fibrosis, mental health, hepatitis, Huntington’s Disease, lupus, Lyme disease, and stroke awareness, just to name a few. May is also the annual celebration of National Mobility Awareness Month in the United States and Canada. This campaign encourages people with disabilities to embody the spirit of Life Moving Forward by raising awareness of mobility solutions available in their community. Here are some books related to mobility:

* DB47125 **The Berenstain Bears and the Wheelchair Commando** by Stan Berenstain (For Grades 2-4, Fiction)
* DB51535 **Death from the Woods** by Brigitte Aubert (Mystery)
* DB52241 **Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities: A Guide to Methods, Tools, and Plants** by Janeen R. Adil (Gardening)
* DB54493 **The Ship Who Sang, Book 1 of Brain and Brawn Ships** by Anne McCaffrey (Science Fiction)
* DB71173 **Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper (For Grades 4-7, Fiction)
* DB71197 **The Summer I Got a Life** by Mark Fink (For Grades 6-9, Fiction)
* DB75554 **A Disability History of the United States** by Kim E. Nielsen (Social Problems)
* DB75556 **Miracle Boy Grows Up: How the Disability Rights Revolution Saved My Sanity** by Ben Mattlin (Social Problems and Biography)
* DB75991 **Twenty-Two Accessible Road Trips: Driving Vacations for Wheelers and Slow Walkers** by Candy Harrington (Travel and Geography)
* DB77094 **Just One of the Kids: Raising a Resilient Family When One of Your Children Has a Physical Disability** by Kay Harris Kriegsman (Child Rearing)
* DB80208 **Always Climb Higher!** by Jeff Pagels (Sports and Biography)
* DBW09420 **My Last Step Backward** by Tasha Schuh (Wisconsin Author and Biography)

***2016 Summer Reading Program***

“On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!” is the theme for the 2016 WTBBL Summer Reading Program for children and teenagers which will be starting in June.

Readers will get sign-up prizes and earn incentives based on how many hours they read over the summer. Magazines or books in any format count toward the hours total. The grand prize will be a $100 gift to Dick’s Sporting Goods (can order online).



Participating in summer reading programs gives children a variety of benefits including:

* Motivating children to read
* Giving access to experiences that further their sense of discovery
* Helping children develop positive attitudes
* Providing topics to discuss with others.

If you know of a child or teenager that uses WTBBL’s services and is interested in signing up for the Summer Reading Program, contact Becky at 1-414-286-6918 or ramanz@milwaukee.gov.

***Update Contact Information***

In order to receive books and magazines on a regular basis, it is always important to keep your address current with WTBBL. If you move, or stay at another address for a length of time, give WTBBL updated contact information, including phone number(s) and email addresses.

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| Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library813 W. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436 |  | FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND OR HANDICAPPED |

***Holiday & Post Office Closings***

BULLETIN BOARD is available in large print, braille and audio editions, and is also available electronically via email and through *NFB-NEWSLINE®*, a newspaper by phone service.

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL)

813 W. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436

1-800-242-8822 (in Wisconsin)

1-414-286-3102 (FAX)

wtbbl@milwaukee.gov (email)

[dpi.wi.gov/talkingbooks](http://talkingbooks.dpi.wi.gov/)



May 30th WTBBL Closed (Memorial Day)

July 4th WTBBL Closed (Independence Day)

September 5th WTBBL Closed (Labor Day)

October 10th No Mail (Columbus Day)

November 11th No Mail (Veterans Day)

November 24th & 25th WTBBL Closed (Thanksgiving)

December 23-26th WTBBL Closed (Christmas Eve & Christmas Day)

December 30-January 2nd, 2017

WTBBL Closed (New Year’s Eve & Day)