# The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library's Winter 2021 Bulletin Board Newsletter banner.

## What’s Been Happening at WTBBL!

Dear Readers,

WTBBL staff is glad to say goodbye to 2020 and would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year! We will never forget how challenging 2020 has been for most of us, but the library hopes that we have been able to alleviate some of the stressful times for you. We appreciated your patience when the library had to shut down due to the coronavirus, and now while we still have to quarantine returned materials for three days. At the same time, the staff is grateful that we can work onsite continuously since mid-May of 2020 and continue sending books to you. As always, we love hearing from you, so please contact us if you have any questions about the service. Let us know if you would like to join the Adult Book Club, or the Winter Reading Challenge in February. As we ride out the pandemic and wish for better days ahead, keep on reading, and stay well!

## Winter Reading Challenge

Are you looking for a fun challenge to kick off the New Year? Join the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library in the **Winter Reading Challenge!**

The Winter Reading Challenge takes place the whole month of February. The goal, for those who accept the challenge, is to read 20 minutes every day in February. People who successfully complete the challenge and return their completed reading logs will win a prize!

If you are interested in joining, contact a WTBBL reader’s advisor by phone

**414-286-3045** or by email at [wtbbl@milwaukee.gov](mailto:wtbbl@milwaukee.gov). You can choose between: a braille calendar log, a print calendar log, or a tactile graphic log to color. Each day in February that you read 20 minutes you mark it off on the calendar. If you read every day and return your completed log, you will win a prize. The challenge is open to readers of any age and you can read in your preferred format. So join us for something fun this winter and earn a prize!

## Braille Calendar

Don’t forget to get your new calendar! The library no longer sends out the braille calendar, however you can still get one, free of charge, from the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults. Contact them by email at [actionfund@actionfund.org](mailto:actionfund@actionfund.org) or by phone at **410-659-9315**.

## Eye Link Wisconsin

Eye-Link Wisconsin is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization with the sole mission of providing a wide array of assistive or adaptive equipment, free of any charge, to Wisconsinites facing the challenges of uncorrectable sight loss.

Eye-Link grant recipients use the technologies they receive to regain their independence and self-esteem, search for work, and begin to be vocationally productive.

Learn more about this critical community outreach effort by visiting:  <https://wi.eye-link.org/>. An assistive equipment grant application is available on this site. Please feel free to contact Jeffrey Scott, Director, at

**608-692-6358.**

## WTBBL 2021 Adult Book Club

The WTBBL Adult Book Club meets on the phone using a toll-free phone number **1-855-753-0200** every other month on a Tuesday. There are two sessions from which to choose: **1:30 to 2:30 pm** or **6:30 to 7:30 pm**. The same book is discussed at both sessions.

### Tuesday, February 9th at 1:30 and 6:30

Nine Perfect Strangers by Liane Moriarty DB092901 Nine people gather at a remote health resort called Tranquillum House, each for their own reasons. Among them is Frances, a romance novelist who is intrigued by both her fellow guests and the charismatic owner, while fighting the feeling she should run while she still can. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

### Tuesday, April 6th at 1:30 and 6:30

Reach for More: a Journey from Loss to Love and Fulfillment by David Szumowski DB099056The author recounts his experiences after being blinded during military service in Vietnam. He discusses the difficulties he has overcome in the intervening years, and the importance of his faith, family, and friendships in overcoming the obstacles he has faced. 2019.

### Tuesday, June 8th, 1:30 and 6:30

The Mountains Sing by Nguyen Phan Que Mai (In Process) *The Mountains Sing*tells an enveloping, multigenerational tale of the Trần family, set against the backdrop of the Việt Nam War. Trần Diệu Lan, who was born in 1920, was forced to flee her family farm with her six children during the Land Reform as the Communist government rose in the North. Years later in Hà Nội, her young granddaughter, Hương, comes of age as her parents and uncles head off down the Hồ Chí Minh Trail to fight in a conflict that tore apart not just her beloved country, but also her family.

### Tuesday, August 3 1:30 and 6:30

The Lincoln Lawyer by Michael Connelly DB061492 L.A. criminal defense lawyer Mickey Haller defends lowlife clients out of his Lincoln Town Car. He eagerly takes the case of Louis Roulet, a wealthy Beverly Hills man arrested for beating a prostitute, but soon becomes suspicious of his client's behavior. Violence and strong language. Bestseller. 2005.

### Tuesday, October 5th 1:30 and 6:30

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes DB096907 1937. Alice Van Cleve is still trying to adjust to married life and living in Kentucky after being raised in England. When offered the chance to join a group of women to deliver Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, she jumps at it. But they face dangers. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

### Tuesday, December 7 1:30 and 6:30

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, HER Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed by Lori Gottlieb DB094667A psychotherapist and advice columnist gives a behind-the-scenes look at the therapeutic process. Shares details of her work at her Los Angeles practice and discusses the emotional crisis that led her to begin therapy herself. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

### New Children’s Magazine

Published bimonthly, *Jack and Jill* is an award-winning magazine for children ages six to twelve. It promotes the education and creative growth of children through interactive activities and articles.

The audio version of *Jack and Jill* magazine is skillfully produced by Insight for the Blind Inc. of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library.

*Jack and Jill* magazineis available for download from BARD and also for subscription through the Magazine on Cartridge program under the magazine code JAC4. It joins the roster of QA-approved network-originated magazines in audio processed at MSCE and posted on BARD.

### A Few of the Best Books of 2020

Check out a couple of the books that have made the best books of the year lists for 2020. You may find a new favorite!

*Cleanness* by Garth Greenwell DB098150 Sofia, Bulgaria. An American teacher is preparing to leave the city he has called home when he meets with one of his students, G., at G.'s request. The story G. shares opens up memories of the teacher's own first love, and the teacher seeks connections. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

*Weather* by Jenny Offill DB098466 Lizzie Benson has worked to help her God-haunted mother and recovering addict brother stabilize. A new job allows her to spend time working as a fake shrink. But as those she loves begin to spiral out of control, she must confront the limits of her abilities. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

*The Mirror & the Light* by Hilary Mantel DB098825 After the events of Bring Up the Bodies (DB 74880), royal advisor Thomas Cromwell breakfasts with those who celebrate the demise of King Henry VIII's recently dead wife, Anne Boleyn. But rebellion and a capricious king threaten the religious reform and power Cromwell craves. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2019.

*The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel DB098955 Vincent Smith is a bartender at an upscale hotel on Vancouver Island when she meets Jonathan Alkaitis, a man running an international Ponzi scheme. She poses as his wife, but walks away after Alkaitis is exposed. Years later, she disappears at sea. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

*Deacon King Kong* by James McBride DB098819 1969. On a cloudy September morning, Deacon Cuffy Lambkin--known as Sportcoat to his friends--walks into the plaza of a Brooklyn project and shoots the local drug dealer point blank in the face. His reasons for this uncharacteristic act of violence slowly unfold. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

*The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett DB099791 Desiree Vignes and her daughter return home to Louisiana in 1968, fourteen years after Desiree and her identical twin sister Stella ran away. The sisters ended up on different paths, and as Desiree struggles with the racial tensions of her hometown, Stella lives her life passing as white. Violence, strong language, and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

*The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdich DB098896 1953. Chippewa Council member Thomas Wazhashk tries to balance the demands of his job as a night watchman at the new jewel bearing plant outside the Turtle Mountain reservation and monitoring the consequences of the bill purporting emancipation for Native American tribes wending its way through Congress. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020.

*A Burning* by Magha Majumdar DB099956 Jivan makes a careless comment on Facebook and is arrested for orchestrating a terrorist attack. Opportunistic gym teacher PT Sir finds his rise in his political party is dependent on Jivan's fall. Lovely can alibi Jivan, but doing so would threaten her. Some violence and some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

*Uncanny Valley: A Memoir* by Anna Wiener DB098158 Memoir of working as a woman in her mid-twenties in the United States' capital of the technology industry. Discusses leaving a job in book publishing, working for a big-data startup, specific work experiences, company culture, and the decline of startup culture. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

## Print/Braille Picture Books

WTBBL has print/braille picture books that are great for sharing with a child. The new books are contracted braille using the Unified English Braille Code.

### *Bear Came Along* by Richard T. Morris; illustrated by LeUyen Pham BR022792

An assortment of animals living separate lives discover they need each other when they have a chance encounter on a river. PRINT/BRAILLE.  For preschool-grade 2. 2019.

### *The King of Kindergarten* by Derrick Barnes; illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton BR022793

Instilled with confidence by his parents, a young boy has a great first day of kindergarten. PRINT/BRAILLE.  For preschool-grade 2. 2019.

### *When Sparks Fly: The True Story of Robert Goddard, Father of US Rocketry* by Kristen Fulton; illustrated by Diego Funck BR022794

Presents the life and accomplishments of scientist Robert Goddard. Describes his many attempts at building (and exploding) different types of rockets in his quest for space travel. PRINT/BRAILLE.  For grades K-3. 2018.

### *A Normal Pig* by K-Fai Steele BR022795

When a new pig comes to school and loudly points out that everything Pip does and eats is weird, Pip questions herself. But then her mom takes her into the city to witness that being different can be a good thing! PRINT/BRAILLE.  For grades K-3. 2019.

### *Felipe and Claudette* by Mark Teague BR022796

Felipe (a grumpy cat) and Claudette (a hyperactive dog) are longtime residents of Mrs. Barrett's adoption shelter. It seems like they will never find a forever home, and Felipe is convinced it is all Claudette's fault. But when one is adopted, they discover something unexpected. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2019.

### *Give Me Back My Bones!* by Kim Norman; illustrated by Bob Kolar BR022797

A storm uncovers a sea floor full of bones, and the skeleton to whom they belong fights to get them back from the surrounding life. PRINT/BRAILLE.  For grades K-3. 2019.

### *The Bell Rang* by James Ransome BR022798

An enslaved family is distressed, yet hopeful, after discovering son Ben has run away. PRINT/BRAILLE.  For grades K-3. 2019.

## New Wisconsin Titles Available

ABLE (Audio & Braille Literacy Enhancement) has produced more Wisconsin books for your reading pleasure. These titles are available on DB cartridges or on BARD.

### *Duty, Honor, Country and Wisconsin* by Tom Mueller DBC08226

Overview of Wisconsin military service men and women in wars from the U.S. Civil War to Vietnam and Afghanistan through the exploits of individuals as reported in diaries, newspapers, interviews, and historical archives.

### *A Tourist in Uniform* by Art Schmitz DBC08344

The author tells the story of his World War II experiences. The book recounts Schmitz's stateside travels while in training through thirteen states and his travels across eight European countries during the war.

### *The Fall of Wisconsin: The Conservative Conquest of a Progressive Bastion and the Future of American Politics* by Dan Kaufman DBC15439

Wisconsin has a history of progressive politics. Following a republican sweep of the government in 2010, this tradition has been challenged. Author Dan Kaufman takes an in-depth look at the political shift in the state and tries to make sense of Wisconsin's changing identity.

### *The House on Foster Hill* by Jaime Jo Wright DBC15451

After her husband's suspicious death, Kaine Prescott moves into a mysterious old house in her grandfather's small Wisconsin hometown. There, she discovers a dark and complicated history that sheds light on her own life.

### 2021 Holiday & Post Office Closings

* **January 1,** Friday (New Year’s Day)
* **January 18**, Monday (MLK Day)
* **February 15,** Monday–No Mail (Washington’s Birthday)
* **April 2**, Friday (Good Friday)
* **May 31**, Monday (Memorial Day)
* **July 5**, Monday (Independence Day)
* **September 6**, Monday (Labor Day)
* **October 11,** Monday–No Mail (Columbus Day)
* **November 11**, Thursday–No Mail (Veterans’ Day)
* **November 25-26** (Thanksgiving)
* **December 24-27** (Christmas)
* **December 31**, Friday (New Year’s Eve)

**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**

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