

# *What’s Been Happening at the WTBBL!*

Happy Spring, everyone!! We hope you are enjoying the longer days, warmer weather, and baseball season! Speaking of baseball, please contact us if you would like to receive a free copy of the Milwaukee Brewers schedule in braille format.

WTBBL will continue hosting the Adult Book Club sessions. The next one will be in June, and we have future dates and books to be discussed, listed in this issue. We usually have 10 -12 participants in each session. Please call us if you would like to participate. The more, the merrier! It is always interesting to hear different interpretations of the same book.

Beginning in June, children and young adults up to age 21 can participate in our WTBBL Summer Reading Program. This year’s theme is *A Universe of Stories* to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the moon landing, but, feel free to be empowered and inspired by reading any books in any format.

We have a list of popular biographies, autobiographies, and new Wisconsin titles available, included in this issue. If you are stumped by what to read next, contact us for book recommendations.

Enjoy the coming holidays and celebrations until we see you next in July. Keep on reading!

# *The Library of Congress Wants to Hear from You!*

Beginning in early March and continuing into April, a sample of 10,000 reader/patrons across the country who currently use services provided by the Library of Congress’s National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped–also known as NLS–will be invited to participate in a nationwide survey.

The information collected from this survey will guide NLS as they move forward on a variety of projects to enhance and expand the braille and talking- book program. As a part of NLS’s cooperating network of libraries, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library encourages invited patrons to respond to the survey at their earliest convenience. Insights gathered from this survey will help us better understand the needs of all of our patrons.

You may receive an invitation by mail, email, or phone. In order to ensure ease of use, readers selected will be given the option of responding to the survey in a number of ways. Once you have received your invitation and have questions, please feel free to contact Gallup Support at galluppoll@gallupmail.com or call 1-888-297-8999.

# WTBBL Summer Reading Program

Summer is quickly approaching, which means that it is almost time for Summer Reading.

Kids and young adults up to age 21 can sign up to participate in the WTBBL Summer Reading program.

It is easy to participate! All you have to do is keep track of the hours that you read. You can read books in any format of your choice! A reading log will be provided to you for keeping track of the books that you are reading.

We are happy to provide age-appropriate reading lists if you are not sure what to pick! So if you are struggling to find good books to read, feel free to ask us for a list of suggested titles for your grade level.

If you are interested in joining the program, contact Katie at CEMallo@milwaukee.gov or 414-286-6918.



# Did You Know?

In the last newsletter we told you all about the great options BARD offers for people who want to listen to books right away or on the go. But there are a few important limitations to keep in mind when using the service.

* If you are downloading books from BARD onto a mobile device like an iPhone or an Amazon Fire tablet, there is a limit of 100 books per 30 days. When you go over your limit, you will get a message that says ‘you are not authorized to read this book’
* The 100 books in 30 days limit does not apply to the books downloaded to your personal computer
* There is no limit to the number of purchased players that you can have authorized on your account at one time; a purchased player includes devices like a Victor Reader or similar products
* You can have up to five mobile devices authorized on your account at one time
* BARD accounts that have not been used in a year are automatically placed in suspended status; call us to reactivate
* Call us to reset your password. We will send you a temporary one, good for seven days
* Passwords can only be updated and changed on the Web version of BARD, not the App or BARD Express

# WTBBL Adult Book Club

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

Here are the dates and titles for the **2019 WTBBL Adult Book Club**:

## Tuesday, June 11, 2019:

**Occupying Aging: Delights, Disabilities and Daily Life** by Katherine Schneider **DB85915** / Available on BARD

Retired psychologist and avid reader provides a year’s worth of daily – and often humorous– musings. Illustrates how she has personally approached life now that the circumstances of being blind from birth and struggling with fibromyalgia for two decades have been combined with the issues that accompany aging. Includes a recommended reading list. 2013.

## Tuesday, August 6, 2019:

**The Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild** by Lawrence Anthony **DB85906** / Available on BARD

Conservationist relates his experiences caring for a rogue herd of elephants on his South African game reserve. Describes his misgivings in accepting them, challenges faced with both the herd and the local communities, lessons learn from individual elephants and the joys and sorrows he encountered. 2009.

## Tuesday, October 8, 2019:

**Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate **DB88202** / Available on BARD

The five Foss children are left alone at home in 1930’s Mississippi and subsequently kidnapped by notorious child dealer Georgia Tann. In the present day, Avery Stafford meets the elderly May, who used to be Rill Foss, and is the sister of Avery’s Grandma Judy. Avery investigates her family’s history. Unrated commercial audiobook. 2017.

## Tuesday, December 3, 2019:

**The Girl Who Wrote in Silk** by Kelli Estes **DB83170** / Available on BARD

Inara Erickson travels to the Puget Sound to clear out her dead aunt’s house. There she discovers an intricately embroidered sleeve. As she delves into its history, she finds the story of Mei Lien, who lived in 1886 and was chased from the area. 2015.

# New Biographies and Autobiographies

* In Pieces: A Memoir by Sally Field **DB92302**

Memoir of award-winning actress famous for starring roles in TV shows such as *Gidget* and films including *Norma Rae.* She shares behind-the-scenes stories from her career, as well as personal insights into her relationships, including her complicated love for her mother. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

* Have Dog, Will Travel: A Poet's Journey by Stephen Kuusisto **DB91578**

The poet and author of memoir *Eavesdropping* (DB 63716), legally blind since birth, recounts stories of life with his first guide dog, Corky, acquired at age thirty-eight, and how this life-changing partnership transformed Kuusisto's interaction with the world. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

* Becoming by Michelle Obama **DB92627**

A memoir by the former First Lady, the first African American in that role. Obama recounts her childhood in Chicago, her years balancing motherhood and her career as an executive, and her time in the White House. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2018.

* The Girl With Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story by Hyeonseo Lee **DB91733**

Memoir of growing up in the repressive communist regime of North Korea. Describes indoctrination techniques, escaping to China at the age of seventeen, and the challenges Lee faced as an undocumented refugee. Shares her work advocating for human rights as well as her family's later escape from North Korea. 2015.

* The Restless Wave: Good Times, Just Causes, Great Fights, and Other Appreciations by John McCain **DB91768**

Arizona senator and Vietnam POW reflects on his political life and the prospects facing him as he battles brain cancer. Includes reminiscences of working with and against liberal senator Ted Kennedy, his work for peace in the Middle East, and his run for president against Barack Obama in 2008. Commercial audiobook.  Bestseller.  2018.

* In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom by Yeonmi Park **DB82685**

An autobiographical recounting of life in the repressive North Korean society in which the author was raised, and her subsequent escape. Park describes her family, the culture of leader worship, her father's imprisonment and torture, and how, even after her escape, she was sold into sexual slavery in China. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

# Tactile Art Exhibit in Wausau

The Woodson Art Museum’s inaugural tactile art exhibition debuts with five avian sculptures, available on a “touch table” in the Decorative Arts Gallery. This touchable artwork installation –the first in an ongoing series – provides ready access to original artwork for visitors with low vision or blindness, also encouraging sighted visitors to experience a new way to “see” via the mind’s eye – visualizing artwork through touch. The museum is located in Wausau Wisconsin and more information can be found at [www.lywam.org](http://www.lywam.org).  Admission is always free.

# Xavier Society for the Blind

The Xavier Society for the Blind is pleased to announce that their conversion to the digital talking book format is now complete and they have added some popular titles on cartridge to their library! These books can be played on the talking book machines provided by the National Library Service. They provide inspirational, spiritual and religious reading materials in braille and audio to the blind and visually impaired community free of charge. For more information, including how to register for their materials, please visit their website at [xaviersocietyfortheblind.org](https://app.donorview.com/Communication/Click?prm=oAlYnDQ4HhTGb6lyxcG-F5ICC6fB8llFK9GWUwWi4bNtLJ6RnzR3NynodHP1Szwf9_P9dU5THsylKhxdTR0WwnEPuzOQnuoBZjMyUYDRqys_RfSoeGuV8Ed7-6LxcG9mPDgSURcWdEehfsjiRVypz9cjhyT_7eR7gwH6EKA5Db_5aQilYusr1fIsYHdTgZ_kujCvLlt4f40n112xGM83OvvZenjhGkwaqo6tSX4ae7k1&target=http%3a%2f%2fxaviersocietyfortheblind.org) or call 1-800-637-9193.

# Foreign-Language Audio Magazines Offered by the NLS

Did you know that the NLS offers audio magazines in foreign languages? Magazines in Spanish, French and German are available directly for download through BARD.

Interested patrons may also contact WTBBL to be signed up for a subscription on digital cartridges.

* *People en Español* (Spanish)
* *Vanidades* (Spanish)
* ***France-Amérique: Le Journal Français des États-Unis*** (French)
* *Das Beste aus Readers Digest* (German)

# Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Awareness Week

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Awareness Week will be observed this year the week of April 14-20, 2019 to commemorate Anne Sullivan’s birthday, on April 14, 1866. Anne Sullivan, a pioneer of the vision rehabilitation profession, was the teacher who worked closely with Helen Keller, to develop the skills Keller would later use as an international lecturer and advocate for individuals with vision and hearing loss. To find a VRT near you, try the VisionAware’s Directory of Services at <http://www.visionaware.org/directory.aspx>

# WTBBL Outreach Spring 2019

Remember WTBBL when scheduling resource fairs, conferences, and local events.

Here are some of WTBBL’s upcoming **Spring/Summer** Outreach events:

* MS Walk Madison
* Vision Walk Wisconsin
* Beaver Dam Senior Expo
* Low Vision Support Group Presentations
* Collaborative Vision Conference 2019
* WALA Annual Spring Conference
* Thrive after 55
* Milwaukee Senior Expo

If you see WTBBL at an event, please stop by our table and say hi! We love to get the opportunity to meet the great people that we talk to on the phone in person!

Please contact Katie at **414-286-6918** or CEMallo@milwaukee.gov to schedule a speaker or exhibitor for an event.

# 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.

* BR 22043 The Library Book [braille] by Tom Chapin and Michael Mark; illustrated by Chuck Groenink

Using the lyrics to Tom Chapin and Michael Mark's "The Library Song," a little girl celebrates her library and the magic of reading. For preschool-grade 2. 2017.

* BR 22046 Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship [braille] by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes; illustrated by Scott Magoon

When he is paired with a girl who has lost her legs, Rescue worries that he isn't up to the task of being her service dog. Based on the true story of Rescue and Jessica Kensky, who was injured in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. For grades K-3. 2018.

* BR 22340 Counting on Katherine [braille] by Helaine Becker; illustrated by Dow Phumiruk

Introduces the boundary-breaking mathematician Katherine Johnson, whose passion for numbers at a young age led to a position at NASA, where she calculated moon landings and helped save the Apollo 13 mission. Highlights the challenges she faced as an African American and as a woman. For grades K-3. 2018.

* BR 22343 A Round of Robins [braille] by Katie Hesterman; illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier

Follows a pair of robin parents from nest-building and egg-laying, to raising their hungry hatchlings, and finally sending off their flying fledglings. For grades K-3. 2018.

* BR 22389 Best Frints at Skrool [braille] by Antoinette Portis

Best friends Yelfred and Omek share and do everything together on planet Boborp. But Yelfred soon discovers that sharing his best friend with Q-B at school isn't easy. For grades K-3. 2018.

* BR 22390 We Don’t Eat Our Classmates! [braille] by Ryan T. Higgins

When the class pet bites the finger of Penelope, a Tyrannosaurus rex, she finally understands why she should not eat her classmates, no matter how tasty they are. For grades K-3. 2018.

* BR 22438 If Polar Bears Disappeared [braille] by Lily Williams

Considers what would happen if polar bears disappeared from our planet, and highlights how climate change drastically alters the Arctic ecosystem. For grades K-3. 2018.

# Check Out These New Titles!

* DB93946 The Witches of St. Petersburg by Imogen Edwards-Jones

1889. Grand Duchess Militza Nikolayevna and her sister, Stana, daughters of the king of Montenegro, live in the Russian court and practice black magic. They befriend the depressed Tsarina Alexandra and eventually introduce her to the dark arts and Rasputin. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2019.

* DB93099 Map of Salt and Starsby Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar

In 2011, after the death of her father, Nour's mother--a cartographer--takes the family back to Syria. But it is no longer the country she remembers. Eight hundred years earlier, sixteen-year-old Rawiya disguises herself as a boy and becomes an apprentice to a cartographer with a royal commission. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

* DB93224 Sweet Magnoliaby Norma Jarrett

Soon-to-be-bride Summer Ledoux plans a weekend event that turns into a family reunion--including her estranged older sister Misa. Neither realizes they both have been struggling with depression. After a vitriolic argument, both turn to God's love as they uncover family secrets. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2006.

* DB93141 When the Men Were Goneby Marjorie Herrera Lewis

Texas, 1944. When her school is left without a football coach at the beginning of the season, assistant principal Tylene Wilson is given the job. She faces challenges from the community, rival coaches, and players. But her love of the game fuels her fight for acceptance. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

* DB92998 The Adultsby Caroline Hulse

A separated couple decides to go on a Christmas vacation with their new partners and their seven-year-old daughter, Scarlett. The five of them (plus Scarlett's imaginary friend) try to get along over the holiday, but the situation is a powder keg waiting to explode. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018.

* DB92967 The Banks Sistersby Nikki Turner

Simone Banks is working her first day as a bank teller when it's robbed. She and her feuding sisters have their own troubles, since they are being evicted from their late grandmother's home and are each facing financial issues. They come up with a plan. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

# 2019 Holiday & Post Office Closings

* April 19 **-** WTBBL Closed (Good Friday)
* May 27 - WTBBL Closed (Memorial Day)
* July 4 - WTBBL Closed (Independence Day)
* September 2 - WTBBL Closed (Labor Day)
* October 14 - No Mail (Columbus Day)
* November 11 - No Mail (Veterans’ Day)
* November 28-29 - WTBBL Closed (Thanksgiving)
* December 24-25 - WTBBL Closed (Christmas Eve & Christmas Day)

