

# What’s Been Happening at WTBBL

Dear Readers,

 Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your holidays and are staying warm and healthy. We all hope that 2022 will be better than 2020 and 2021 combined!

To recap, 2021 was a good year for WTBBL operations.

 We implemented the new Gutenberg **Duplication on Demand system (DOD)** in early October, after many delays. Like all things new, it is taking some time for our readers to adapt to the new system. For the most part, the majority loves the multiple title cartridges with no due dates. It is an efficient and cost-effective circulation system. We appreciate your patience in adapting to the new system. (If you still have the older individual cartridges, please return them when you finish reading.)

 WTBBL also achieved a milestone in 2021! We celebrated WTBBL’s 60th anniversary. As promised, here is the link to watch our promotional video on YouTube: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryvYEPQvFws**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryvYEPQvFws)**.** You can also find it on the WTBBL Facebook page. Feel free to share this video so others can learn about our services.

 This video is a great outreach opportunity for the library. Onsite outreach work is at best questionable right now, but WTBBL continues to look for opportunities to do outreach. Let us know when conditions are better if you are interested in a presentation from us! We are also happy to be included in virtual meetings to talk about our services.

 WTBBL is also pleased to announce that Library Services Coordinator **Katie C,** and Reader Advisor **Amanda M,** were promoted to Librarian positions! Although we are sad to see them leave us, they will continue to serve at another branch of the Milwaukee Public Library. We anticipate new staff members joining us soon. You will hear different voices when you call. There have been so many changes! Again, we appreciate your understanding and patience as we go through the staffing changes. Please do not hesitate to call us; we are here to serve you!

Stay well and keep on reading!

## How Long Can I Keep it?

* The new multiple title cartridges (Download on Demand) DO NOT have due dates; however, we have limited cartridges and cannot provide any patron with more than 5 cartridges.
* If you need a new cartridge, one must be returned.
* Magazines on cartridges that come in red cases **DO** have due dates:
	+ Weekly magazines are checked out for 3 weeks and cannot be renewed.
	+ Monthly magazines are checked out for 7 weeks and cannot be renewed.
* Audio-described DVDs are checked out for **one month** and cannot be renewed (maximum of 3 at one time).
* Machines are kept for the duration of the service or until replacement is needed.

Please contact us if you have any questions! **Email:** **wtbbl@milwaukee.gov** **Phone: 1-800-242-8822** or **414-286-3045.**

### 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** or by phone at **410-659-9315**.

### Winter Reading Challenge

 The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library is pleased to announce that we will once again be doing our **Winter Reading Challenge!** So if you are looking for a fun way to challenge yourself to read more in the new year, this is the perfect opportunity!

 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**.

You will be mailed a braille/large print calendar to mark off, with a pre-addressed envelope to return the log in. 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!

### Interested in Accessible Technology Podcasts?

 The Top Tech Tidbits directory at [**https://www.toptechtidbits.com/blind-andvisually-impaired-technology-podcast-directory.html**](https://www.toptechtidbits.com/blind-andvisually-impaired-technology-podcast-directory.html)is available for patrons interested in podcasts dedicated to accessible technology. Check it out! Also included are a game and listserv directory.

### Reading List

 If you are looking for some inspiration in the new year, these books should do the trick!

#### Sentenced to Blindness, Now What?: A Journey from Hopelessness Street to Possibility Road by Morten Bonde DB101400

Memoir of a former executive at the LEGO Group about his experiences in losing his sight. Diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, by 2016 he realized his sight had changed drastically. He describes his journey from perceived limitations to new possibilities. Translated from the 2019 Danish edition. Some strong language. 2020.

#### Perfect Rose Cracked Vase by Pamela L. Reynolds DB103993

Drawing from her childhood journals, the author reflects on her experiences growing up with disabilities after her mother contracted German measles while pregnant. She discusses her difficult relationship with her mother, the challenges and trauma of her childhood, and the healing insights she learned along the journey of her life. Some descriptions of sex. 2019.

#### There Plant Eyes: A Personal and Cultural History of Blindness by M. Leona Godin DB104014

 A history of blindness across art, literature, and culture, exploring how blindness has been used throughout time as a metaphor for both ignorance and transcendence. Through detailed analysis and autobiographical examples, the author presents connections to the science of blindness, accessibility developments, and humanity's larger understanding of the world. Includes supplemental material. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

#### Sitting Pretty: The View From My Ordinary, Resilient, Disabled Body by Rebekah Taussig DB101063

A memoir essay collection from a disability advocate living with paralysis. The author reflects on her experiences growing up, the complications of kindness and charity, living both independently and dependently, experiencing intimacy, and the pervasiveness of ableism. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

#### Hello Darkness, My Old Friend: How Daring Dreams and Unyielding Friendship Turned One Man's Blindness into an Extraordinary Vision for Life by Sanford D Greenberg DB100264

Author describes how losing his eyesight as a Columbia junior affected his life trajectory. He went on to Harvard and Oxford and — among many other accomplishments — invented a compressed speech machine which speeds up the reproduction of words from recordings without distorting any sound. The title reflects his long friendship with Art Garfunkel. 2020.

#### Hope of the Crow: Tales of Occupying Aging by Katherine Schneider DB101220

The author reflects on life with disabilities and aging through seven years of vignettes of her life. She describes her work as a grass-roots activist, her personal life, and her beliefs. 2020.

#### **Blind Ambition: How to Envision Your Limitless Potential and Achieve the Success You Want by Patricia Walsh DB103995**

Walsh shares her story of losing her sight due to a pediatric brain tumor and surgical complications, and her road to becoming an award-winning computer engineer and champion para-triathlete. Discusses the ways she motivates herself through her goal-setting system of Fuel/Fire/Blaze. 2015.

### WTBBL 2022 Adult Book Club

The WTBBL Adult Book Club meets on the phone every other month on a Tuesday by using a toll-free phone number
**1-855-753-0200.** 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.

If you are interested in joining our group you can contact **Katie,** or talk to a reader’s advisor at **414-286-3025** or **wtbbl@milwaukee.gov** for more information, or you can just call in at the appointed day and time!

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

#### The Midnight Library by Matt Haig DB100906

After she attempts suicide, Nora wakes up in a mysterious library. The shelves are full of books, each the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with other books for the other lives you could have lived. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2020.

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

#### 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.

#### Tuesday, June 14th 1:30 and 6:30

#### The Last Trial by Scott Turow DB099795

Eighty-five-year-old Alejandro "Sandy" Stern — a brilliant defense lawyer with his health failing but spirit intact — is on the brink of retirement. But when his old friend Dr. Kiril Pafko — a former Nobel Prize winner — is faced with charges of insider trading, fraud, and murder, Stern decides to take on one last trial. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2020. (Book 11 in the Kindle County)

#### Tuesday, August 2nd 1:30 and 6:30

#### The Light in Hidden Places: A Novel Based on the True Story of Stefania Podgórska by Sharon Cameron DB101605

Stefania, a Catholic teen, embarks on a dangerous course. She must protect thirteen Jews in her attic, care for her younger sister, Helena, and keep everything secret from the two Nazi officers who are living in her house. Violence and some strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

#### Tuesday, October 4th 1:30 and 6:30

#### Hello Darkness, My Old Friend How Daring Dreams and Unyielding Friendship Turned One Man's Blindness into an Extraordinary Vision for Life by Sanford Greenberg DB100264

Author describes how losing his eyesight as a Columbia junior affected his life trajectory. He went on to Harvard and Oxford and — among many other accomplishments — he invented a compressed speech machine which speeds up the reproduction of words from recordings without distorting any sound. The title reflects his long friendship with Art Garfunkel. 2020.

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

#### The Other Wife by Michael Robotham DB093349

Psychologist Joe O'Loughlin is startled to learn that his father is comatose in a London hospital after a head injury and that the woman sitting with him, claiming to be his wife, isn't Joe's mother. Some violence, some strong language, and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2018. (Book 10 in the London Detectives series).

### 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.

#### Bean There, Done That by Sandra Balzo DBC15435

Book 3 in this Wisconsin-based mystery series, finds Uncommon Grounds coffeehouse owner Maggy Thorsen wrapped up in another murder. This time, her ex-husband is the prime suspect as his new wife turns up missing. Adult.

#### Cup of Jo by Sandra Balzo DBC15434

Maggy Thorsen seeks to reopen her coffeehouse Uncommon Grounds with new business partner Sarah Kingston in Brookhills, Wisconsin. However, trouble ensues when the event manager turns up dead. Book 6 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult.

#### Triple Shot by Sandra Balzo DBC08339

Maggy Thorsen and Sarah Kingston, co-owners of coffeehouse Uncommon Grounds, find themselves wrapped up in a murder, a secret mafia stash, and possible real estate irregularities in Brookhills. Book 7 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult.

#### To the Last Drop by Sandra Balzo DBC08338

Once again, Maggy Thorsen finds herself in the midst of a potential murder when a man mysteriously falls out of a tenth floor window in front of her ex-husband's dental practice. Book 9 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult.

#### Death of a Bean Counter by Sandra Balzo DBC15528

Uncommon Grounds coffeehouse owner Maggy Thorsen finds herself in a precarious situation when her top barista Amy Caprese is implicated in a murder of Kip Fargo, her

ex-boyfriend. Book 12 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult.

#### How the Right Lost Its Mind by Charles J. Sykes DBC15450

"How the Right Lost Its Mind" is an introspective account of Charles Sykes' journey with his conservative beliefs, and how the media, and his role in it, influenced the rise of Donald Trump and Trumpism. Adult.

#### Letters from the Boys: Wisconsin World War I Soldiers Write Home by Carrie A. Meyer DBC15447

Based on letters from Roger Skinner and other World War I soldiers, this book paints a picture of life during wartime. Many of the letters were originally published in Green County, Wisconsin newspapers. Adult.

#### Murder on the Orient Espresso by Sandra Balzo DBC08337

Maggy Thorsen, co-owner of Uncommon Grounds coffeehouse, along with Sheriff Jake Pavlik, run into unexpected trouble during a crime writers' conference in Florida. Chaos ensues as a murder mystery train ride event goes awry. Book 8 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult.

#### Proxmire: Bulldog of the Senate by Jon Kasparek DBC15463

Author Jonathan Kasparek offers the first

in-depth biography of one of Wisconsin's most famous United States senators, William Proxmire. Adult.

**Robert’s Rules: A Novel by J.F. Riordan DBC15476**

"Robert's Rules" tells a story of Chairman of the Town Board, Fiona Campbell’s efforts to build a coalition among the small-town politics on Washington Island. Intrigue has no bounds among the locals as Fiona traverses the various characters and relationships which reveal her best and worst in this book that celebrates the well-lived lives of ordinary folks. Adult.

**The War of 1812 in Wisconsin: The Battle for Prairie du Chien by Mary Elise Antoine DBC08266**

This book gives an in-depth look at how Wisconsin factored into the War of 1812. It offers insight into relations between the British, American, and Native people living in the Prairie du Chien area at the time. Adult.

### 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 BR 22792

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.

**Arithmechicks Adds Up by Ann Marie Stephens; illustrated by Jia Liu BR 23173**

Ten chicks spend their days counting and playing with a lonely little mouse longing to join in. When the Arithmechicks try to reach a basketball net, they realize they could use the help of their furry, new friend. Uncontracted braille. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool-grade 2. 2019.

**A Big Bed for Little Snow by Grace Lin BR 23179**

When winter comes, Mommy makes a soft bed for Little Snow to sleep on, but each night he cannot resist jumping on the bed, causing tiny feathers to fly down. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2019.

**The Cool Bean by Jory John BR 23175**

Always on the sidelines, one bean unsuccessfully tries everything he can to fit in with the crowd--until one day the cool beans show him how it’s done. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2019.

**Don’t Feed the Coos! by Jonathan Stutzman; illustrated by Heather Fox BR 23176**

A little girl tries all sorts of ways to escape an insatiable flock of pigeons after sharing some bread with one. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool-grade 2. 2020.

**Hey Grandude! by Paul McCartney; illustrated by Kathryn Durst BR 23174**

Grandude brightens a dreary weekend for his visiting grandchildren by using his magic compass and postcards to take them on adventures around the world. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool-grade 2. 2019.

**Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom by Teresa Robeson; illustrated by Rebecca Huang BR 23200**

Details the life of a female Chinese American physicist who was a pioneer in the field during a time when girls were not considered to be as smart as boys. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2019.

**Sharice’s Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman by Sharice Davids with Nancy K. Mays; illustrations by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley BR 23723**

An autobiography introduces US Representative Sharice Davids, one of the first Native American women elected to Congress and the first lesbian congressperson to represent Kansas. Davids, a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, shares her love of talking, listening, and martial arts. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2021.

**Terrific Tongues! by Maria Gianferrari; illustrated by Jia Liu BR 23201**

Explores the unusual ways that a variety of animals use their tongues to find food, eat, and clean themselves. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool-grade 2. 2018.

**Up on Bob by Mary Sullivan BR 23177**

Weiner dog Bob can’t fall asleep because he suspects someone is watching him. Uncontracted braille. PRINT/BRAILLE. For preschool-grade 2. 2020.

**Vote for Our Future! by Margaret McNamara; illustrations by Micah Player BR 23178**

The students of Stanton Elementary School, which is a polling place, find out all they can about voting and then encourage everyone in their neighborhoods to cast their ballots. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2020.

### 2022 Holiday & Post Office Closings

#### January 17, 2022 MLK Day

#### April 15, 2022 Good Friday

#### May 30, 2022 Memorial Day

#### July 4, 2022 Independence Day

#### September 5, 2022 Labor Day

#### November 11, 2022 No Mail Veterans’ Day

#### November 24-25, 2022 Thanksgiving

#### December 23-26, 2022 Christmas

#### December 30, 2022 New Year’s Eve Observed

#### January 2, 2023 New Year’s Day Observed

**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.**

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