# Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library Winter 2023 Bulletin Board Newsletter banner logo

## **What’s Been Happening at WTBBL**

Happy 2023, everyone! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are staying healthy. With a few more cold months ahead of us, it is a great time to catch up on reading and explore new genres and authors. What better way to start than participating in our Adult Book Club and annual Winter Reading Challenge?! The first book club meeting is on February 7th, and the reading challenge runs until March. Let us know if you want to join in the fun.

We have updates from the National Library Service (NLS) and great reading suggestions included in this Newsletter. Check out the new books added to our WI collection! We will keep you busy and entertained with so many books to read. As always, we welcome your questions, so please, don't hesitate to contact us. Stay informed, and keep on reading.

## **WTBBL 2023 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 **414-286-3045** or [**WTBBL@milwaukee.gov**](mailto:wtbbl@milwaukee.gov)for more information, or you can just call in at the appointed day and time!

### **Tuesday, February 7th 1:30 and 6:30**

**The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón DB058940** Barcelona, 1945. Young Daniel Sempere selects Julián Carax's *The Shadow of the Wind* when his father takes him to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Daniel loves the novel, investigates the author's life and death, and meets a cast of characters hiding deadly secrets. Some descriptions of sex. Bestseller. 2001.

### **Tuesday, April 4th 1:30 and 6:30**

**The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave DB103326** Before he disappears, Owen, Hannah's husband of one year, smuggles a note to her asking her to protect his sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey, who refuses to have anything to do with Hannah. They soon realize that Owen is not who he says he is and Bailey holds the key. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2021**.**

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

**Fox and I: An Uncommon Friendship by Catherine Raven DB106546** Biologist and former national park ranger recounts her time spent in an isolated cottage in Montana, where she bonded with a fox. Raven examines the relationship between wildlife and humans, and reflects on what can be learned from the natural world and the meaning behind loss. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

### **Tuesday, August 1st, 1:30 and 6:30**

**Horse by Geraldine Brooks DB108556** Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism. Provided by publisher. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2022.

### **Tuesday, October 3rd 1:30 and 6:30**

**The Overstory by Richard Powers DB091490** A group of nine strangers are tied together by their shared desire to protect one of the last virgin forests in America. They include a wounded Vietnam vet, a student who dies and is revived, and a scientist who learns that trees can communicate. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2018.

### **Tuesday, December 5th 1:30 and 6:30**

**We Are Not Like Them by Jo Piazza DB105333** Jen and Riley have been best friends since kindergarten. As adults, they remain as close as sisters, though their lives have taken different directions. The deep bond they share is severely tested when Jen's husband, a city police officer, is involved in the shooting of an unarmed Black teenager. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2021.

**Winter Reading Challenge 2023**

Join WTBBL Winter Reading Challenge this year for something new. This year the winter reading challenge encourages WTBBL patrons to find new books to read and read a little more! There are ten ideas to choose from, but to complete the challenge you only have to do seven. Below is the list of ten challenges:

1. Read a book recommended by a friend

2. Read a book translated from another language

3. Read a book by an author you have never read before

4. Read a book recommended by a Librarian (or Reader’s Advisor)

5. Read a book set in another country

6. Read a book about Wisconsin

7. Read a non-fiction book

8. Read a book you loved as a kid

9. Read a book you had to read in school

10.  Read a young adult book

To sign up for the challenge email us at [**WTBBL@milwaukee.gov**](mailto:wtbbl@milwaukee.gov), call us at **1-800-242-8822** or **414-286-3045**. We will mail you a braille/large print sheet with the list of challenge ideas that you can mark off as you complete them. When you have completed the challenge, return the completed sheet in the preaddress, free matter postage envelope that is included.

## **New Braille Magazine**

**Title:** *Better Homes and Gardens*

**Magazine code:** BHG1

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Description:** A resource for home ideas, food, and recipes for everyday and special occasions, and garden know-how.

**Availability:** hardcopy braille subscription and download from BARD.

## **New York Times Best Books of 2022**

**The Candy House by Jennifer Egan DB107786** Tech mogul Bix Bouton's company, Mandala, has developed a new platform called "Own Your Unconscious" that allows you access to every memory you've ever had, and to share every memory in exchange for access to the memories of others. While some embrace this new technology, others--including Bix's son--reject it. Strong language. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. 2022.

**Checkout 19 by Claire-Louise Bennett DB107720** In a working-class town in a county west of London, a schoolgirl scribbles stories in the back pages of her exercise book, intoxicated by the first sparks of her imagination. As she grows, everything and everyone she encounters become fuel for a burning talent. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

**Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver DB110786** *Demon Copperhead* is set in the mountains of southern Appalachia. It's the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

**Trust by Hernan Diaz DB107949** Everyone in 1920’s New York has heard of Benjamin and Helen Rask. He is a legendary Wall Street tycoon; she is the daughter of eccentric aristocrats. Together, they have risen to the very top of a world of seemingly endless wealth. But at what cost have they acquired their immense fortune? Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

**An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by Ed Yong DB108629** Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Ed Yong coaxes us beyond the confines of our own senses, allowing us to perceive the skeins of scent, waves of electromagnetism, and pulses of pressure that surround us. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

**Stay True: a Memoir by Hua Hsu DB110669** Determined to hold on to all that was left of one of his closest friends-his memories-Hua turned to writing. A coming-of-age story that details both the ordinary and extraordinary, *Stay True* is a bracing memoir about growing up and about moving through the world in search of meaning and belonging. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

**Strangers to Ourselves: Unsettled Minds and the Stories That Make us by Rachel Aviv DB110614** Rachel Aviv raises fundamental questions about how we understand ourselves in periods of crisis and distress. Drawing on deep, original reporting as well as unpublished journals and memoirs, Aviv writes about people who have come up against the limits of psychiatric explanations for who they are. Aviv asks how the stories we tell about mental disorders shape their course in our lives. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

**Under the Skin: the Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation by Linda Villarosa DB109687** Linda Villarosa lays bare the forces in the American health-care system and in American society that cause Black people to "live sicker and die quicker" compared to their white counterparts. Today's medical texts and instruments still carry fallacious slavery-era assumptions that Black bodies are fundamentally different from white bodies. Anchored by unforgettable human stories and offering incontrovertible proof, *Under the Skin* is dramatic, tragic, and necessary reading. Unrated. Commercial audiobook.

**We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Ireland since 1958 by Fintan O’Toole DB108540** Fintan O'Toole weaves his own experiences into Irish social, cultural, and economic change, showing how Ireland, in just one lifetime, has gone from a reactionary "backwater" to an almost totally open society-perhaps the most astonishing national transformation in modern history. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2022.

## **New Online Catalog from the National Library Service**

Finding your next great read is easier than ever with the new NLS Catalog search features! NLS Catalog boasts a new, clean design and advanced search functionality, direct links to BARD from catalog listings for quick downloads, and for the first time, patrons can directly request books to add to our collection! Patrons will also find links to contact a librarian and other resources to get the most out of NLS. Start exploring the catalog here: [**https://nlscatalog.loc.gov**](https://nlscatalog.loc.gov)**.**

## **National Library Service Announcements Listserv for Patrons**

Want to get the latest news and updates from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled? NLS’s Patron Engagement Section now hosts an announce-only listserv that will include announcements about NLS programs, services, and products that might be of interest to patrons. New announcements will be posted to the list a few times a week. If you are interested in signing up for this listserv, please send your name and email address to the Patron Engagement Section at [**NLSPES@loc.gov**](mailto:NLSPES@loc.gov)**.** You will be able to unsubscribe yourself from the list at any time. So email [**NLSPES@loc.gov**](mailto:NLSPES@loc.gov)now!

## **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.

### **Building the Brewers: Bud Selig and the Return of Major League Baseball to Milwaukee by Chris Zantow DBC15486**

The author gives an in-depth look at the history of Milwaukee baseball and how Bud Selig worked tirelessly to bring a franchise back to the Cream City. He covers the building and retiring of stadiums, the early years of the budding Brewers, and how they planted the seeds for their 1982 pennant. Adult.

### **Cupola Kitty by Terri Gingold DBC15530**

Fluffy has gone missing and Mama Kitty is worried. Where could Fluffy be? For grades K-3.

### **Dead Lines: Slices of Life from the Obit Beat by George Hesselberg DBC24897**

Obituaries of unique individuals collected and featured by longtime newspaper reporter George Hesselberg. Adult. Unrated.

### **The Farm on Badger Creek: Memories of a Midwest Girlhood by Peggy Prilaman Marxen DBC24881**

The author shares reminiscences of growing up near the rural town of Meteor, Wisconsin in the mid-20th century. Adult. Unrated.

### **The Fishermen, the Horse, and the Sea by Barbara Joosse DBC24888**

A true Lake Michigan tale about fisherman Lester Smith and his family's rescue of seamen during an Autumn storm. For grades 2-4.

### **From the Grounds Up by Sandra Balzo DBC15533**

Maggy partners with her real estate agent friend to find a new location for her coffeeshop. A suspicious series of deadly "accidents" reveal that someone wants to stop Maggy from reopening the shop, and she must find out who is behind the murders. Book 5 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **Grounds for Murder by Sandra Balzo DBC15531**

When Maggy discovers the body of her rival and conference organizer Marvin LaRoche at the barista competition, she finds herself in hot water in this coffee shop murder mystery. Book 2 in the Maggy Thorsen mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **Healing the Soul: Unexpected Stories of Courage, Hope, and the Power of Mind by Bhupendra O. Khatri DBC15529**

The author explores the power of the human mind and spirit as it relates to healing. A physician specializing in MS, Dr. Khatri shares stories from his professional and personal life which emphasize the need for doctors to treat the whole person, not just the disease. Adult.

### **Historic Milwaukee Crimes: The Vengeful Seamstress, the Absconding Alderman and More by Carl Swanson DBC27319**

Carl Swanson takes a look at some of the most notorious crimes that have been committed in Milwaukee's long-forgotten past. Adult. Violence.

### **Hope is the Thing: Wisconsinites on Perseverance in a Pandemic edited by B. J. Hollars DBC24882**

A compilation of short written pieces from Wisconsin writers of what hope means to them during some of the most uncertain times early in the COVID-19 pandemic. Adult. Unrated.

### **How to Make a Life: A Tibetan Refugee Family and the Midwestern Woman They Adopted by Madeline Uraneck DBC15446**

An immigration story of a Tibetan refugee family who crossed real and cultural bridges to make a life in Madison, Wisconsin, with the assistance of the Midwestern woman they befriended. Adult. Unrated.

### **The Importance of Being Unrest by Sandra Balzo DBC08349**

Uncommon Grounds coffeehouse owner Maggy Thorsen once again finds herself in the midst of murder and mystery. Not to mention a jail break and shoot-out involving her special friend Sherriff Jake Pavlik. Book 10 in the Maggy Thorsen Mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **In the Drink by Allyson K. Abbott DBC08330**

Mack's Bar owner Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton is at it again as she and her team of bar patron sleuths try to help Tiny, one of the bar's newest customers, solve the mystery of his sister's murder. Book 3 in the Mack’s Bar Mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **The Kindred Spirits Supper Club by Amy E. Reichert DBC15539**

When confronted with ghosts, moving back home, being jobless, and encountering old boyfriends are the least of Sabrina's worries. Adult. Unrated.

### **Last Call by Allyson K. Abbott DBC08333**

Bar owner Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton is at it again. Investigating the murder of a Milwaukee businessman, she soon realizes her friend Mal could be the top suspect. Final book in the Mack's Bar Mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **Long Way Round: Through the Heartland by River by John Hildebrand DBC15484**

Hildebrand charts a course throughout the state of Wisconsin to be traveled by canoe. On his journey, he meets fellow Wisconsinites and reflects on the historical context that has led to the bitterly divided political environment they find themselves in, all while seeking the current of shared values that still run beneath the surface. Adult. Unrated.

### **Mightier Than the Sword: Rebels, Reformers & Revolutionaries Who Changed the World Through Writing by Rochelle Melander DBC24886**

An exploration on writers and how through the written word they changed the world. For grades 3-6.

### **Murder with a Twist by Allyson K. Abbott DBC08329**

The regulars at Mack's Bar love putting their heads together to solve a good mystery. But Mack is learning there's a big difference between barroom brain teasers and real-life murder. Number 2 in the Mack’s Bar Mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **On Wings of Wonder by Doug Cosper DBC24874**

When Case's mother disappears, two unlikely companions, Case and Mira, team up to use their powers of wonder against an evil enemy and help find his mom. For grades 5-8. Unrated.

### **Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy by Dennis L. Dresang DBC15521**

An in-depth look at the life and political career of Patrick J. Lucey, Wisconsin governor from 1971 to 1977.

### **Rebel Poet: (Continuing the Oral Tradition): More Stories from a 21st Century Indian by Louis V. Clark III DBC15542**

In this follow-up to *How to Be an Indian in the 21st Century* (DBC08281), Clark continues his unique style of storytelling through a combination of poetry and prose. He digs into his experiences of family, grief, and discrimination, all while sharing his resilient sense of humor.

### **Shots in the Dark by Allyson K. Abbott DBC08331**

Determined to find out who murdered her bouncer, Milwaukee bar owner Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton and her barstool detectives must pour over the clues to outsmart a crafty killer who is not done brewing up trouble. Number 4 in the Mack’s Bar Mystery series. Adult. Unrated.

### **Spider Lake: A Northern Lake Mystery by Jeff Nania DBC15504**

Former police officer John Cabrelli finds that the little town of Musky Falls is not the peaceful setting to recover from his gunshot wounds he had hoped it would be. A suspicious series of events draws Cabrelli, along with a cast of local residents and law enforcement, into a case involving a missing federal agent and plenty of fast-paced action in this crime thriller. Sequel to *Figure Eight: A Northern Lakes Mystery* (DBC15503). Adult. Unrated.

### **A Toast to Murder by Allyson K. Abbott DBC08332**

It is New Year's Eve in Milwaukee. Bar owner Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton hosts an invite-only party to catch the killer of bouncer Gary Gunderson. Mack's synesthesia aids her and the Milwaukee Police Department in solving the crime. Number 5 in the Mack's Bar Mystery Series. Adult. Unrated.

### **Tommy: My Journey of a Lifetime by Tommy George Thompson and Doug Moe DBC15495**

A memoir from former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson and biographer Doug Moe. Told from Thompson's perspective, he details his life growing up in Elroy, a small town in Western Wisconsin, and how he steadily rose to prominence as a statesman and policy leader for the Republican Party. Adult. Unrated.

### **‘Twas the Night Before Christmas in Wisconsin by Jo Parry DBC24887**

It's Christmas Eve and Santa is delivering to his favorite place, Wisconsin. For grades K-3.

**Walking Milwaukee: 31 Tours of Brew City’s Neighborhoods, Landmarks, and Entertainment Districts by Royal Brevvaxling and Molly Snyder DBC15541**

Learn all about the city of Milwaukee's neighborhoods, landmarks, and entertainment districts in this city guidebook. Adult.

### **Warriors, Saints, and Scoundrels: Brief Portraits of Real People Who Shaped Wisconsin by Michael Edmonds DBC08295**

Short vignettes describing influential and colorful individuals from Wisconsin's past. Adult. Unrated.

### **When the White Pine Was King: A History of Lumberjacks, Log Drives, and Sawdust Cities in Wisconsin by Jerold W. Apps DBC15524**

The author explores the logging history in Wisconsin and how it generated development throughout the state and its cultural influence. He gives a thorough chronological narrative from the early days of winter logging to the 1890s peak, and to the state combating clearcutting by planting millions of trees and implementing sustainable forestry policies to manage the land. Adult.

### **Whispers and Shadows: A Naturalist’s Memoir by Jerold W. Apps DBC15534**

The author explores various themes of naturalism through personal anecdotes. 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.

**The Couch Potato by Jory John; illustrated by Pete Oswald BR 23749** When the electricity goes out, a couch potato peels himself away from the comforts of his living room and ventures outside. He realizes that fresh air and sunshine could be just what he needs! PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3. 2020.

**2023 Holiday & Post Office Closings**

**February 20, 2023** President’s Day

**April 7, 2023** Good Friday

**May 29, 2023** Memorial Day

**June 19, 2023** Juneteenth National Independence Day

**July 4, 2023** Independence Day

**September 4, 2023** Labor Day

**October 9, 2023** Columbus Day

**November 11, 2023** Veteran’s Day

**November 23-24, 2023** Thanksgiving

**December 22, 2023** Christmas Eve Observed

**December 25, 2023** Christmas

**December 29, 2023** New Year’s Eve Observed

**January 1, 2024** New Year’s Day

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