



*Washington*  
**Secretary of State**  
SAM REED

## **Washington Talking Book & Braille Library**

A program of the Washington State Library  
and Office of the Secretary of State

### **Reading Matters**

**Summer 2010**

*David Junius, Editor*

#### **A Message from Danielle Miller, WTBBL Program Manager**

I hope many of you have already heard the good news and maybe even had a chance to celebrate with us at the library. If you haven't heard, your very own Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) was selected as the 2009 Network Library of the Year. The award is presented by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), one of our parent organizations.

I went to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to accept the award along with State Librarian Jan Walsh, and Sue Ammeter, the Chair of the Patron Advisory Council (PAC). The award consists of a framed certificate, a plaque that we keep for one year, and \$1,000. It was a wonderful ceremony and we followed it up with a celebration at WTBBL where Secretary of State Sam Reed did the honors and pounded in the nails to hang the awards on the wall.

Speaking of decorations, I'm pleased to announce that we will be doing a Patron Art Show again this fall. This year, we have opened up the show to include any form of artistic expression by any patron of the library. This means you can submit tactile art like last year, of course, but maybe you sing, or you write and could do a reading from a brailled version of a poem, or you paint or draw or do photography. The sky is the limit. We will be sending out a call to artists soon on our listserv and website, so watch for that and have fun being creative!

As we start to look toward the end of the year, the PAC will once again be recruiting for new members. The PAC is a very important group for the library and for the patrons it represents across the state. Members advocate for excellent library service, new and innovative ideas, and are invaluable in brainstorming and sharing the WTBBL message during difficult economic times. We are looking for a veteran of the armed forces and someone who has a physical disability that prevents them from using standard print materials. The physical disability can be in addition to blindness or on its own. We will also be seeking some general patron representation as well. Please consider applying if you are committed, motivated, and would like to serve the WTBBL community.

Jan Walsh, our State Librarian until her retirement on August 31, served the WTBBL community with passion and dedication. For years and years, she saw us through a major transition from City to State administration, ownership of the building in downtown Seattle, and difficult budget times. Jan worked for the Washington State Library for 38 years, the last eight years as State Librarian. She truly cares about WTBBL and its patrons and volunteers. Jan has assured me she will stay involved and hopes to see you all in the future.

I thank you for all your support and for making us the best library in the country!!! We will continue to do everything we can to deserve that title. I hope to hear from you and please let me know how we can enhance and improve your library service. Feel free to contact me at [danielle.miller@sos.wa.gov](mailto:danielle.miller@sos.wa.gov) or (206) 615-1588.

All the best,

*Danielle*

## **A Message from Secretary of State Sam Reed**

As a longtime library supporter, I'm proud that both the State Library and the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) are part of the Office of Secretary of State. When WTBBL joined the State Library in 2008, I knew what an important role it played in providing a wide variety of services to Washington's visually impaired community.

So, I was very proud when WTBBL received the 2009 Network Library of the Year award from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in June. It's a well-deserved honor for Program Manager Danielle Miller and her dedicated staff and volunteers. The award reflects their hard work in offering WTBBL's patrons great service. I was very glad to attend the June reception at WTBBL to recognize this special award.

However, my joy over WTBBL's award was offset when State Librarian Jan Walsh announced that she was retiring at the end of August. Jan showed tremendous leadership and direction during a crucial period for the State Library, which joined the Office of Secretary of State in 2002. Jan not only did an outstanding job of running our State Library, she was a strong and passionate advocate for all libraries throughout Washington, particularly WTBBL. While I'm sad that Jan has retired, I'm glad that she'll remain a strong and vocal library supporter.

## **Final Thoughts About Libraries and WTBBL by Jan Walsh, State Librarian**

As I retire and reflect on my career in Washington libraries for 38 years, and as Washington State Librarian for eight years, I will characterize my work as one of passion. Indeed, there have been many challenges, and I have learned from each one of them. But there have also been years of joy at making a difference in Washington libraries. Certainly my time working with the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) can be portrayed as a blend of challenges, opportunities, and joy.

### **Our Shared History**

Since 1975, the Washington State Library (WSL) has had legal responsibility for funding WTBBL, and providing services to individuals who are visually impaired and/or physically handicapped. For decades, the WSL fulfilled that obligation through a contract with Seattle Public Library (SPL), and the staff members were employees of SPL.

In 2003, SPL contacted me to let me know they did not want to continue this arrangement. More important than their desire to transition the service and our obligation to take it on, was our

commitment to ensuring an effective statewide library service for the blind and physically handicapped. The transition took more than five years, but I am incredibly proud of the staff at the WSL and WTBBL for their hard work in making the transition a smooth one.

The WSL had to drop a bill to have the library's building revert to ownership by the state, and that move began productive discussions with the City of Seattle. Ultimately, the Office of the Secretary of State took back ownership of the middle two floors, assuring space for the current service and room for growth.

It was during these transition discussions that I first began work with the Patron Advisory Council (PAC) and the consumer groups on support of the transfer of the service. Together we advocated successfully for both the transition and the increased funding. I also determined that the search for a director of WTBBL should be an open one, and subsequently hired Danielle Miller as the Program Manager.

Many people were absolutely certain that there would be a lapse in the quality of service during the transition of the administration. Approximately half of the staff chose to stay with SPL, and while we were saddened that they made that choice, we understood why they would want to protect their seniority and retirement. We were able to hire excellent staff to fill their positions, and soon we were at full staff, moving forward with vigor and enthusiasm for the service.

## **My Regrets**

Unfortunately, the State's economy plummeted, and WSL was cut by two million dollars. We had to make significant cuts, including several at WTBBL. Cuts throughout WSL were 30 percent while WTBBL's cuts were 15 percent. Remaining staff dealt with the layoffs with a mix of compassion and sorrow, then settled in and worked with the situation as best they could. Patrons continued to advocate for the library, and we were able to hire back two full-time employees at WTBBL.

However, the layoffs did have an impact on me and the other managers. We knew we were forced to lay off many good people, people with real lives and families, not just employees. To some extent, we brought the extraordinary momentum of WTBBL to a halt for a month or two.

## **My Passion**

Just as we were accommodating the cuts, we learned that the library had been named Network Library of the Year. Ours was the best library in the nation! This was a huge accomplishment, and I am so proud of all of the staff and everyone involved in the transition of the library. Our staff, despite all of the budget cuts and ensuing stress, still have passion for doing this work. The staff can be incredibly proud of working for a library in which they make such a difference in people's lives.

We have an amazing number of committed volunteers who have either stayed or joined the WTBBL crew. And our advocates have had a tremendous impact on the funding of the library. The PAC, led by Sue Ammeter, has been tireless in its efforts to promote the library.

Technology has also moved us forward at warp speed this year. We received the new digital players and the digital books, and our library had no trouble getting the players to the patrons. Our locally produced downloadable books are the first and only ones in the nation, and our locally produced braille books and our braille transcription classes are outstanding.

## **The Future**

I believe that considerable changes may be made due to, or as a result of, budget strains and changing technology. The coming biennial budget will be written to cover a three-billion dollar shortfall; the 2013-2015 biennial budget is predicted to be another five-to-six-billion dollar shortfall. We have cut the WSL, including WTBBL, to the bone, so any cuts will have a significant impact on our future.

And my crystal ball tells me that technology changes will offer rare and wonderful opportunities. Imagine if your books were beamed to your player. Far fewer books would then be shipped from WTBBL. Players could be even smaller. And that will be just the beginning of change.

## **Moving on to the Next Chapter**

As I move on to retirement, I want to tell all of you that you have made a significant impact on me. I value our friendship and I will look

back at our relationship and our shared advocacy fondly. Thank you for teaching me so much about your world. I am a better person for that. I hope that we will be marching together to advocate for our library, and I know that I will continue to share our passion and joy.

## **PAC Corner by Sue Ammeter, Chair**

**Greetings from the Patron Advisory Council (PAC)!**

The last several months have brought a good deal of change to WTBBL. Between the state budget challenges detailed in this year's winter and spring issues of *Reading Matters* and the reinstatement of some of the funding and staff positions lost, WTBBL has continued to persevere.

On the heels of all the budget challenges, WTBBL was honored with the 2009 Network Library of the Year Award from the National Library Service and the Library of Congress. I was able to attend the award ceremony in Washington, D.C., with Danielle Miller and Jan Walsh in June. The gala luncheon and awards ceremony were an experience that I will never forget.

It was an honor to be there with them, and a fitting tribute to the work that Jan has done for the Washington State Library (WSL) and for WTBBL. Without Jan's leadership, the past year could have been a lot worse, and as her article above attests, there are still challenges to be met. However, she is leaving the WSL and WTBBL in stronger positions, both as leaders in their work, and as robust institutions that can weather change. Thank you, Jan, for all the hard work you've done to keep us running!

At the end of 2010, I will be rotating off of the PAC, opening up the opportunity for a current member to assume the role of chair and guide this wonderful group of volunteer leaders. While I will write one more "PAC Corner" after this one, I just want to say that the PAC has been instrumental in keeping WTBBL vibrant over the past several months. The enthusiasm they show is impressive, and I know I will be leaving the chair position in capable hands as current members assume new roles, and new members start their journey helping to lead this library.

To that end, starting in September we will be accepting applications for seven new members of the PAC, so please keep an eye on the WTBBL website and listserv for updates. (If you're not yet subscribed to the listserv, it's a great source of up-to-the-minute WTBBL news.) As a PAC member you can help guide the future work of WTBBL to serve the people across the state who rely on its services. This includes committee work in advocacy and outreach that can allow you to pursue different interests and build your leadership experience.

For 2011, we are seeking the following:

- a patron with a physical disability other than blindness
- a patron who is a veteran
- general patron representatives

Maria Edelen, the chair of the PAC Outreach Committee, recently wrote me this note. I think it really shows how excited people are about WTBBL's work and the new digital players, no matter how long they have been patrons!

“The most amazing thing happened to me earlier this year – I became an AVID reader again. As a child, I was the kid who stayed up all night reading under the covers with a flashlight and the nuns once caught me reading Nancy Drew in church. (That story does not end well.) In my early twenties, macular degeneration forced me to abruptly quit reading. With the help of WTBBL, I began to listen to books on tape about ten years ago. I would listen to about one a month, nothing truly exciting. Then the digital player came along and changed my life. There are no confusing cassettes to keep track of and the player is small enough for me to take everywhere (even church). I average a new book every two or three days and I feel like I am back in the land of the living.”

The following individuals are current members of the Patron Advisory Council. As always, please contact the PAC member in your area of the state with any questions or ideas you may have.

Sue Ammeter (Port Hadlock) 360-437-7916  
Terry Atwater (Olympia) 360-754-8193  
George Basioli (Edmonds) 425-771-6299  
John Buckmaster (Spokane) 509-327-1132  
Norma Jean Campbell (Richland) 425-802-8662

**Maria Edelen (Spokane) 509-928-2405**  
**Karen Johnson (Seattle) 206-632-6160**  
**Kevin Larose (Tumwater) 360-539-7016**  
**Jenny McDaniel-Devens (Coupeville) 425-328-9820**  
**Mike Mello (Seattle) 208-301-0565**  
**Mary Anna Mohrman (Seattle) 206-363-0636**  
**Lynette Romero (Olympia) 360-915-9030**  
**Janice Squires (Kennewick) 509-582-4749**  
**Emily Stevenson (University Place) 253-564-1704**

## **Expression for All Art Show by Theresa Connolly**

As mentioned in Danielle's letter above, WTBBL is going to expand last year's tactile art show and sponsor a full-fledged festival of the arts this year. The opening reception will be at the library the evening of Friday, October 29.

If you want to put on a performance, play some music, read one of your stories or poems, the reception is the time for you because that is when we will have an audience assembled. The tactile and visual arts will be up, too, and will be displayed throughout the following week, November 1 through November 5.

If you want to perform the evening of the reception or submit your art for the show, please contact Theresa Connolly by Friday, October 1. You can call Theresa at (206) 615-0415 or (800) 542-0866, or email her at [theresa.connolly@sos.wa.gov](mailto:theresa.connolly@sos.wa.gov).

We would love to have a chance to share your art with the WTBBL community!

## **Braille Updates by Ed Godfrey**

Twelve students successfully completed the 2010 Braille Transcription class on June 23—congratulations! After six months of transcribing set exercises, all are now enjoying transcribing real books for WTBBL. The library's transcribers—who do their volunteer transcription work at home—will meet at WTBBL in late September for ongoing training and discussion, and a brown-bag lunch.

More than 40 books are currently in production by Braille Department volunteers. These include: *Raven Stole the Moon*, by Garth Stein; *Best Places Northwest Cookbook*, by Cynthia Nims; *River of Promise: Lewis and Clark on the Columbia*, by David Nicandri; *Trial by Fire*, by J. A. Jance; and *Reservation Blues*, by Sherman Alexi.

Nine volunteer proofreading teams are currently scheduled for two-hour shifts during the week. A braille proofreading team consists of a tactile braille proofreader who reads the braille text aloud, and a sighted monitor who listens and reads the print text silently, using a ruler or other placeholder and a very sharp eye. The proofreader reads punctuation aloud as well as words. Either the proofreader or the monitor may interrupt the reading to question any difference found between the braille and the print.

Proofreading is initially done by the transcribers, who carefully check their own work before submitting it for further proofreading. Even in the best transcription work, an effective proofreading team will catch a missing comma or a minor braille error. We greatly appreciate the work of our volunteer proofreading teams!

## **New Web Pages for WTBBL-produced Books by Theresa Connolly**

The web pages for the audiobooks produced at WTBBL have been changed since the spring edition of the newsletter and, although the changes are small, I think they make it easier to keep up with what we offer.

Here are some tips so you can continue or join in on the fun of downloading our digital books.

1. You need a user name and password that you can get by calling us at (206) 615-0400 or (800) 542-0866.
2. There are complete instructions on our website for downloading books. Our website address is [www.wtbbl.org](http://www.wtbbl.org). Follow the links from there, or you can get them by calling us.
3. The books are divided into categories for younger readers (pre-school through middle and high school) and for adults (high school and older).

4. Within categories, the books are listed with the titles first but arranged alphabetically by the authors' last names. This makes it easier to see all the books we have by an author.
5. If a book is part of a series, the series number and name will be in the title line.
6. New books are listed for several weeks under the "Books Recently Added" section. New books are added every week. That is why you want to pay particular attention to the next tip!
7. In the "Books Recently Added" section, at the end of the lists for younger readers and adults, there is a line that reads, "To receive automatic notification of newly added books, click here to sign up for an RSS feed..." Click where indicated, and you will receive an e-mail about the books as they are added.
8. The book files that you download have the title, or part of the title, instead of just a number so that it is easier to organize the books you've downloaded on your computer.
9. Things can go wrong without our knowing it, so if you spot a problem, please, call Theresa Connolly at (206) 615-0415 or (800) 542-0866.

There are always at least four people involved in producing our books: a staff member, volunteer narrator, volunteer reviewer and volunteer production assistant. Many thanks, too, to Matthew Edwards, the Office of the Secretary of State webmaster who worked out the technicalities and keeps the web pages working properly so downloading books is as smooth as silk.

## **NEW Books Available at WTBBL! by Herrick Heitman**

Here are some of the audiobooks we have recently produced on cassette and digital cartridge. These audiobooks are also available for download.

Happy reading!

### **Audio: Adult Fiction**

*The Alpine Obituary* [ #15, *Emma Lord mysteries*] by Mary Daheim. Alpine, Washington. Emma Lord, small-town newspaper publisher, investigates the death of octogenarian Jack Froland, who his wife insists was murdered. The local judge, a beautiful blonde, has received a blackmail letter, and there is also a possible arson to investigate.

Narrated by Alis Parris. 2002. 9 hours, 35 minutes. Cassette Book CBA 7457. Digital Book DBW 7457.

*Urban Shaman [#1, the Walker Papers]* by C. E. Murphy.  
Skeptical Seattle cop Joanne Walker comes to the aid of a woman claiming to be hunted by Cernunnos, an ancient Celtic god. After a confrontation with Cernunnos, Joanne has three days to harness her newly awakened shamanic powers and save the world. Some strong language and violence. Narrated by Andrea Lewis. 2005. 10 hours, 22 minutes. Digital Book DBW 8124.

*The Memoir Club* by Laura Kalpakian.  
Six very different women enroll in a memoir class through a university extension program. The class soon becomes The Memoir Club as each person grapples with her past. A violent act destroys their expectations but strengthens their bonds. Although this book is fiction, there are helpful tips about writing. Narrated by Cynthia Ellis. 2004. 11 hours, 30 minutes. Digital Book DBW 8152.

#### **Audio: Adult Nonfiction**

*Atomic Farmgirl; The Betrayal Of Chief Qualchan, the Appaloosa, and Me* by Teri Hein.  
The great-granddaughter of homesteaders to Eastern Washington explores a childhood marked by horseback riding, casseroles, a stoic German Lutheran tradition, and the Cold War duck-and-cover drills of the '50s. Contrasts her memories of the golden wheat fields and rich topsoil of the Palouse Hills with the nuclear waste dispersals from the nearby Hanford Atomic Plant. Narrated by Chris Galloway. 2000. 7 hours, 30 minutes. Cassette Book CBA 7413. Digital Book DBW 7413.

*Truman of St. Helens* by Shirley Rosen.  
An affectionate recollection of an American folk hero, whose love for the land and the mountain on which he built his resort led to his death in the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Narrated by Mary Schlosser. 1981. 5 hours, 30 minutes. Cassette Book CBA 7809. Digital Book DBW 7809.

*New Land New Lives: Scandinavian Immigrants to the Pacific Northwest* by Janet Rasmussen.  
This collection of 45 oral history interviews is drawn from the Scandinavian Immigrant Experience Collection at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. They convey the texture of daily life as these

immigrants farm in the Yakima Valley, log in Western Washington, fish in Alaska and on the Columbia River, do domestic work in Seattle and Portland and raise a family during the Depression. Narrated by Alita Kiaer. 1993. 11 hours. Digital Book DBW 8074.

### **Audio: Fiction for Youth**

*Newfangled Fairy Tales: Classic Stories with a Twist* edited by Bruce Lansky.

Parodies of traditional fairy tales include King Midas as a workaholic banker who neglects his family and Sleeping Beauty backpacking through Europe after being trapped in a castle for so long. Grades 3-6. Narrated by Duane Barr. 1997. 2 hours. Cassette Book CBA 7735. Digital Book DBW 7735.

*Notes from the Midnight Driver* by Jordan Sonnenblick.

After being assigned to perform community service at a nursing home, 16-year-old Alex befriends a cantankerous old man who has some lessons to impart about jazz guitar playing, love and forgiveness. Narrated by David Ritt. Grades 6 and up. 2006. 4 hours, 44 minutes. Digital Book DBW 8112.

*The Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island* by Laurence Yep.

In 1922, 10-year-old Gim Lew reluctantly leaves his village in China to accompany his father to America. He spends the voyage practicing stutterless responses to the grueling immigration test that he must pass at Angel Island. Includes facts about immigration from China and the experiences of the author's family. 2010 Sasquatch Award nominee. Grade 4 and up. Narrated by Arika Escalona. 2008. 3 hours. Digital Book DBW 8163.

### **Braille: Adult Nonfiction**

*The Olympic Rain Forest: An Ecological Web* by Ruth Kirk.

The Olympic rain forest is the classic example of a temperate-zone rain forest. This book describes the beauty and complexity of its rich, vibrant ecosystem. 1992. BRW 1322.

*The Last Wilderness* by Murray Morgan.

A stirring, humorous history of the Olympic Peninsula that tells the epic adventures of the pioneers in this remote region. 1955. BRW 1299.

*B Street: The Notorious Playground of Coulee Dam* by Lawney L. Reyes.

The childhood memories of the author portray the building of the Grand Coulee Dam during the Depression, and the stories of the men who came to build it. B Street was the street of shops, restaurants, bars and brothels where the workmen spent their recreational hours and wages; a raucous playground of frivolity, good times and pretty ladies. Contrasts the extreme conditions the workers toiled under with the Indians whose villages were flooded and whose way of life was irrevocably changed. 2008. BRW 1295.

### **Braille: Fiction for Youth**

*The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth* [#2, *Eoin Colfer's Legends*] by Eoin Colfer.

Marty, Will and the rest of the family are spending the summer in a trailer on the beach. Marty makes Will walk home from a local dance, planning to scare him with the ghostly voice of Captain Crow, but Marty's the one who's scared when the rocks light up as described in the local legend. Grades 2-4. 2006. BRW 1312.

*The Diary of a Killer Cat* [#1, *Killer Cat series*] by Anne Fine.

Ellie's cat, Tuffy, killed a bird, left bloodstains on the carpet, ruined the garden, and is accused of killing the neighbor's rabbit. He's confused by the family's displeasure—after all, he's a cat! Grades 2-4. 2008. BRW 1313.

### **Radio Notes by John Pai**

When we last checked in with you, we were in the midst of learning and implementing a new radio automation system called WireReady. We are currently switching over and have been impressed with the robustness and capability of the new system. Within the next month we will be making a seamless switch over to WireReady.

We are also beta testing a new web streaming host for the radio. Abacast has been a stable and responsive provider, but due to budget issues we are testing out a system that will be provided by the Secretary of State's Office. Stay tuned for further developments.

Upcoming "Talk Show" topics and guests include a broadcast of a Low Vision Book Club author interview in our ERRS studio, a

conversation with the Executive Director of the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind, Lou Oma Durand, and previews of both the upcoming Washington Council of the Blind and National Federation of the Blind annual conventions. If you missed a live show (Wednesday at 6 p.m.) or its rebroadcast (Sunday at 6 p.m.), check our website—we might have the show you want up on our archives to listen to at your leisure.

Authors paying us a visit on our “Literary News” program in the last few months include: Jane Smiley (*Private Life*), Elinor Lipman (*The Family Man*), Louis Sachar (*The Cardturner*), Belle Yang (*Forget Sorrow: An Ancestral Tale*), Daniel Levin (*The Last Ember*), Sundee Frazier (*The Other Half of My Heart*), Lee Kravitz (*Unfinished Business*), Steve Duno (*Last Dog on the Hill*), Aimee Bender (*The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*), and Karen Tei Yamashita (*I Hotel*). Look for them in the upcoming months on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. or Thursday at 6 a.m.

As always, we’re evaluating and adjusting our program schedule, especially the programs we get from outside sources. Let us know if you have any thoughts or comments. Drop us an email at [radio@sos.wa.gov](mailto:radio@sos.wa.gov). We really appreciate hearing from you. Thanks for listening!

### **Interested in volunteering at WTBBL?**

We are looking for Talking Book and Machine Inspectors, News and Program Readers for our Evergreen Radio Reading Service, Book Reviewers and Book Production Assistants, Braille Proofreaders, and workers for special library projects. For more information, contact David Junius at (206) 615-0417 or [david.junius@sos.wa.gov](mailto:david.junius@sos.wa.gov).

### **From the Registrar’s Desk by Tyler Kaye**

Our first year with digital talking books has been an impressive success with nearly two-thirds of patrons currently using the new format. Between books sent on cartridge and books downloaded through BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download), digital books now make up 30 percent of our circulation.

New books are arriving on a regular basis with over 2,500 titles currently available on digital cartridge. However, this is still quite small

compared to our cassette collection, which was built over 30 years. We urge you to keep your yellow four-track cassette player in case you would like to read a book not yet available on digital cartridge or via download. If you do choose to return your cassette player, please call us first so that we can stop any more tapes from being automatically sent to you.

Our supply of digital books has grown to the level that each patron can now have up to four checked out at a time. If you would like us to increase the number of digital books you are receiving, let us know.

We recently took over responsibility for managing the BARD accounts of all our patrons. Previously these tasks were handled by NLS staff in Washington, D.C. This is great news for BARD users, as requests for logins, new passwords, and additional encryption keys will be handled much faster than before—often within minutes.

Finally, we have noticed that it can be quite easy to mistake an empty blue digital book case for one containing a cartridge. Every week we receive several empty boxes, which then have to be pulled from circulation until the cartridge is located. Before dropping your books in the mail, please double-check each case to make sure that there is a cartridge inside and that it matches the label on the box. Your fellow readers will thank you!

## **Meet Our Staff: Gregg Porter**



“Sound” is the one word that you could use to link all of the aspects of Gregg Porter’s professional life as an audio and music producer and engineer. Even before completing high school in Iowa, he was working an internship at a local radio station. In his first year at college, he was hired by their National Public Radio affiliate, KCCK-FM, where he spent eight years as an on-air host and program producer.

Gregg came to Seattle in 1984 in order to work at the University of Washington’s NPR station, KUOW-FM. During most of his 11 years with the station, he ran the studio and

satellite facilities as Operations and Production Manager, as well as being producer of live event broadcasts (such as the Northwest Folklife Festival), and of the nationally syndicated performance show, "Sandy Bradley's Potluck."

After leaving KUOW, Gregg produced a handful of albums for local artists, including jazz vocalist Edmonia Jarrett. He then spent more than a decade at Muzak, creating music mixes for business environments, specializing in jazz, classical, new-age and world music.

During this time, he also became an expert in the music of Hawai'i, learning to sing in Hawaiian and to play `ukulele and bass guitar with many area Hawaiian musicians and hula ensembles. Since 2001, he has also been one of the hosts of the "Hawai'i Radio Connection" programs airing every Saturday on KXPA-AM (9-10 a.m.) and KBCS-FM (Noon-2 p.m.)

Gregg feels very fortunate to have joined the WTBBL staff in October 2008, and enjoys working closely with his fellow broadcaster, John Pai, to constantly improve the programming and overall sound of the Evergreen Radio Reading Service.

## **Patrons Give Generously Through Bequests by Carleen Jackson, Director of Development**

Over the past year, generous and caring donors who want the good work of WTBBL to continue long into the future, provided bequests of nearly \$20,000. We are very grateful to these wonderful patrons and donors who included WTBBL in their estate plans and we are honored that they cared so much about the library's mission to remember us.

Because you are a patron of WTBBL and many of you are also donors, I know that you value the mission of WTBBL. You support us in our efforts to provide information, education and entertainment to those who cannot read standard print material. Through the talking books, large print collection, braille books, Evergreen Radio Reading Service, reference service and youth services, thousands of Washington citizens are served every day.

**Remembering WTBBL in your estate plan ensures that it will continue to provide these services and be able to adapt to the rapid changes in technology and in our world.**

**To include WTBBL in your estate plan, be sure to use the full legal name, Washington Talking Book & Braille Library. You may need our Employer Identification Number, 26-3135760, when talking to your attorney or financial advisor.**

**If you have questions or want to let us know that you have included WTBBL in your estate plan, you can reach me at (360) 902-4126, or by email at [carleen.jackson@sos.wa.gov](mailto:carleen.jackson@sos.wa.gov).**

**As always, thank you for your generous support and for being a part of the WTBBL family.**