

TAR HEEL TALK

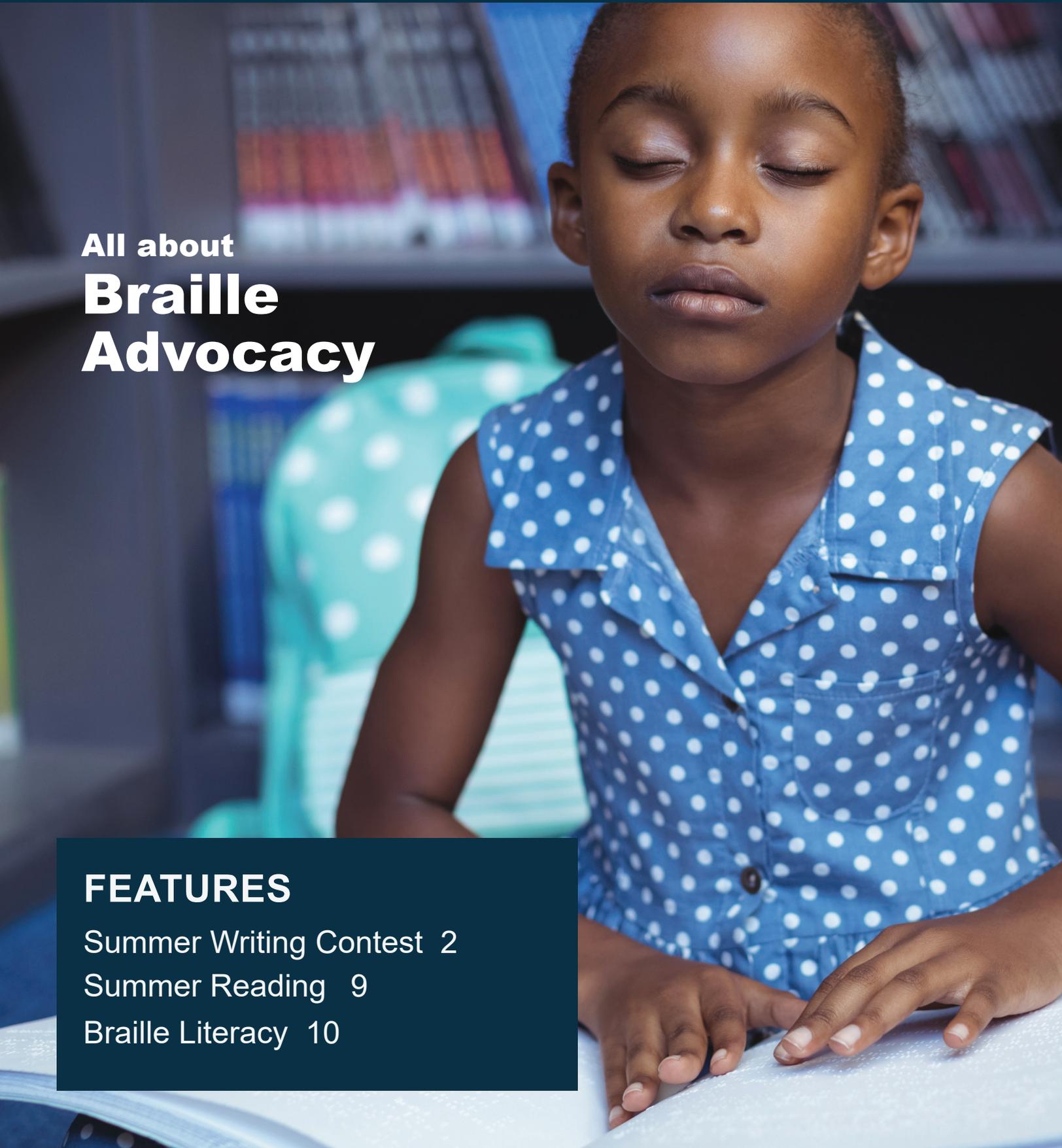
All about
**Braille
Advocacy**

FEATURES

Summer Writing Contest 2

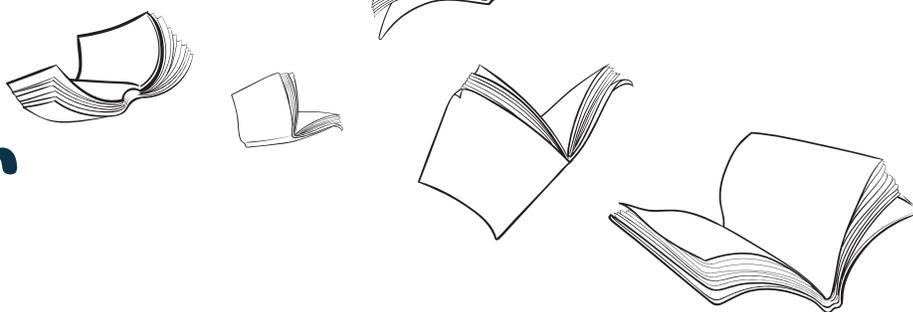
Summer Reading 9

Braille Literacy 10



Summer

Writing Contest



The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is having its first Writing Contest! In relation to the theme for Summer Reading this year, “Imagine Your Story”, we think it will be great for our patrons to not only imagine their story, but to share it as well. The contest will be divided in age groups further explained in the rules. Each submission will be judged base on its clarity, creativity, spelling/grammar, and impact.

We will accept submissions in a typed, brailled, or audio format. There will be three top spots for each age group, but everyone who enters will receive recognition for their participation. We encourage interested patrons to enter! We look forward to reading your stories!

Contest Rules

One entry per patron. Entries must be submitted by August 1st, 2020. Submissions will be judged and awarded prizes by age group (K – 4th grade, 5th - 8th grade, 9th grade +, Adult).

Top Prizes

- First place in each age group will receive a pack of Uno Braille Cards, a plaque and publication of story in a future Tar Heel Talk, NOBLE and BARD.
- 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive a plaque and publication in a future Tar Heel Talk, NOBLE, and BARD.

How to Enter

- Submit at **statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/eventsprograms** or mail your submission to:
Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
1841 Capital Blvd; Raleigh, NC 27635

2020 BRAILLE CHALLENGE



The 2020 Braille Challenge of Eastern North Carolina was the best yet! Eye Shine Foundation held a fundraising event that resulted in prizes, donation dollars, and increased awareness about the needs of the visually impaired community. The event brought together parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers, and friends from all over Eastern North Carolina. The day started with a hearty breakfast donated by Equal Eyes Vision Services. After a brief overview, the children were taken to their classrooms. They then took their respective tests with other children of their testing level. Participants' spelling, proofreading, reading comprehension and charts and graphs were tested. For unofficial par-

ticipants, we hosted a Rookie Room which offered fun activities and games to promote their braille literacy. Parents were in a Parent Session listening to Orientation & Mobility (O & M) Specialist, **Tannis Carter**.

Ms. Carter shared her expertise in the field of O&M and gave parents strategies for helping their children navigate the world. **Taylor McDonald** is a teacher of the visually impaired who grew up legally blind, completed her degree, and moved across the country. Taylor was an inspiration to the parents by showing them a visually impaired life well lived. **Anna Mayes**, a visually impaired Eye Shine Foundation Board Member and UNC-CH counseling student shared her

story, prompting conversations that connected parents on a deeper level.

The children gathered in the large Community Room for fun and fellowship after testing. The children enjoyed lunch with cupcakes decorated with M&M braille letters, which the children truly loved! Entertainment for the Braille Challenge was a drumming session with Triangle Drumming and Wellness. They brought instruments for children to play and guided them through fun, lively songs. Scores were tabulated and submitted to the Braille Institute; winners will be chosen in May.

No matter the scores, every child will take home fun memories of a day well spent. So many attendees told us this event is their highlight of the year. This event reminds parents there is a community of other parents facing the same challenges and situations. It is crucial children are surrounded, if only for a day, by other children who can connect to them on this level. We appreciate the yearly sponsorship of the Friends of the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and we couldn't do our work without your generosity! ■

FRIENDS CORNER



Friends of the

North Carolina Library for the
Blind and Physically Handicapped



Dear Friends,

As I write this column in Mid-March 2020, the world is throwing new and difficult challenges at us daily. Thank goodness for our libraries!

If you (like me) need a brief escape from the daily drama of our nation and the world, call our library and talk with the reader advisors to get a book or magazine to lift your spirits. Additionally, with the amazing technology of our time you can go online to get literature or music to soothe your soul with **BARD** (Braille Audio Reading Download), or other apps.

Conversely, if you love drama the library can serve that desire as well. If you are quarantined or self-isolating some **descriptive videos** are probably a good call. Personally, I'm going for the fun and happy materials.

My happy books that I read over and over are *Fried Green Tomatoes* by Fannie Flagg, *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, and the Laura Ingalls Wilder's *The Little House* series.

I loved the *Little House* books as a child. My special favorite books are oldies that you may never have heard of, *Auntie Mame* by Patrick Dennis and *Our Hearts Were Young & Gay* by Cornelia Otis Skinner. I found them on my grandparents' bookshelf when I was a child. They weren't children's literature, but I read them anyway. As I read and reread them over my lifetime, I understood them and enjoyed them more and more. Thankfully I inherited them, and they still make me laugh out loud every time I pick them up. How about you? What are your perennial favorites? Is it time to

revisit them? I encourage you to exercise the benefits of our libraries, not only during difficult times, but always. They are our passport to new perspectives, mindsets, and places.

Our State Library for the Blind is constantly adding new materials in accessible formats. The Friends of the Library is honored and pleased to support this endeavor by providing funds for literary purchases, braille printing materials, and other items needed to serve the

library's patrons.

Help us to help you, your friends, your family and the community by becoming a Friend of the Library today. Call or go online to friendsnclbph.org to join us. It's cheap, only \$10 a year for an individual, but its value is immeasurable. That's a happy thought!

Susan L. King
President,
Friends of the Library

“Tar Heel Talk” is a quarterly publication of the N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH), State Library of North Carolina, and N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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FRIENDS OF THE NCLBPH

Membership Application

To pay by credit card: Go to www.friendsnclbph.org and select the “Membership” link

To join by mail: Fill out this membership form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone with Area Code: _____

Email address: _____

Do you receive materials from NCLBPH? Yes No

Send information on ways to financially support the Friends

Select your membership categories:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hundred Dollar Club \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Plus Club \$300 |
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Make checks payable to FNCLBPH and mail with this form to:
FNCLBPH, 1841 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27635

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The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped invites you to join our **2020 Summer Reading Program!**

Details:

- The program begins June 1st and runs to August 31, 2020.
- Patrons ages 0-21 may register until July 31st for kids division.
- Patrons ages 21+ may register until July 31st for adults division.
- Read at least 5 books to win a prize!
- Top 3 readers win gift cards.

How to sign up:

You can complete this form and mail it to the library, call the library to register or sign up on our online registration form.

Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

Phone Number _____

For more information about the Adult Summer Reading Program call NCLBPH at **1-888-388-2460** or visit our website at **<http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph>**

ACQUIRING BRAILLE LITERACY

Article written by **Sarah Brackett**, Reader Advisor

As a reader advisor who works closely with individuals who have visual impairments, I have recently begun to learn braille through the Hadley correspondence course. Prior to beginning this course, I had heard of the importance of learning braille for those who have visual impairments. The two commonly cited benefits of braille literacy are increased employability and an increased capacity for independence. Knowing this, I wanted to increase my own ability to communicate with our patrons and to open another way for them to communicate with me. I decided to learn braille, but I was scared.

I thought I wouldn't be able to acquire braille literacy. I didn't know how I could learn when I wouldn't be in a classroom. Now, I already know the braille alphabet, and can read some braille signs in uncontracted braille when out in public after only a few weeks. I am looking forward to continuing to learn braille, and

I have become a huge advocate for braille literacy.



Taking the class has emphasized to me the importance of being able to read, as literacy is an essential part of education. Without braille, many visually impaired individuals lack the ability to read. I couldn't understand why patrons on phone calls would correct themselves if they said they had "read" a book to they "listened" to a book. I would say something to the effect of it is the same thing. However, upon reflection it isn't. I was missing the distinction.

Audio books are wonderful. They allow millions of visually impaired individuals to access content otherwise unavailable to them. However, it is like being read a story by a parent when you are a child. It is enjoyable, but sometimes you want to read the story by yourself. You want to imagine the character's voice a certain way; you want to put

the inflection on a certain syllable; you want the book to become your own. The patrons are right. They are not reading, they are listening. Braille literacy is important...not just because it improves the chances for employment, but also because it is a way to become literate. Literacy is taken for granted by the sighted sometimes, but it is invaluable.

There are resources available to learn braille, and I strongly suggest you take advantage of them. Speak to your social worker for the blind in your county, visit the **National Federation for the**

Blind website detailing the resources available to you, and the **National Library Service's** website (websites are listed below this article) for general information about braille, braille publications, and braille products available. I can personally attest to the effectiveness of the Hadley program, there website is listed on the following page. This year's summer reading theme is "Imagine your Story" I encourage you to truly imagine your own story a life with braille literacy, and make it a reality. ■

Braille Learning Resources:

National Federation for the Blind:

nfb.org/resources/braille-resources

National Library Service:

loc.gov/nls/resources/blindness-and-vision-impairment/braille-information

Hadley Program:

hadley.edu/FindaCourse.asp

LOCAL MAGAZINES ON DEMAND



Article written by **Josh Berkov**,
Collection Management Librarian

Have you ever wanted to receive locally produced and distributed audio magazines in a timelier fashion? Would you like to stop receiving the magazines that you have no interest in?

Well, we've got some great news to share with you!

Starting this Summer, we will begin circulating locally produced and distributed magazines on the same cartridges as the books that we are sending you via our **Books on Demand** system. If you are not already utilizing our Books on Demand system to receive books from us, we will make sure that you are converted over before we start circulating the locally produced and distributed magazines in this manner. You will not lose access to any of your preferred local magazine titles as a result of any of these changes.

In preparation for this change, please call us at **1-888-388-2460** to customize which local magazine titles you would like to continue receiving.

On the following page is a list of all locally produced and/or distributed audio magazine titles that we are currently sending out so you can let us know which ones you want:

Title	Frequency
<i>GRIT</i>	Bi-monthly
<i>Carolina Country</i>	Monthly
<i>Catnip</i>	Monthly
<i>Choice Magazine Listening</i>	Quarterly
<i>Guideposts</i>	Monthly
<i>North Carolina Historical Review</i>	Quarterly
<i>Our State</i>	Monthly
<i>Tar Heel Talk</i>	Quarterly
<i>Wildlife in North Carolina</i>	Bi-monthly
<i>Your Dog</i>	Monthly

CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING

Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners can download or receive by mail 12 hours of great stories and articles chosen from 100 of the finest magazines, absolutely free of charge. All CML's selections are wonderfully read by some of America's top audiobook narrators. CML subscribers include those with conditions such as low vision, macular degeneration, blindness, MS, diabetes, cerebral palsy, ALS, dyslexia, and Parkinson's. If someone you know would enjoy this free service, please call 1-888-724-6423 or visit www.choicemagazinelisting.org.

NEW DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

Tar Heel Talk now has digital and paper editions. There are now 4 newsletters released each year. If you would like to receive the new digital newsletter, please include your email address below and mail it to NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 1841 Capital Blvd, NC 27635, or email us at nclbph@ncdcr.gov

Name _____

Email _____

Phone (____) _____

LIBRARY CLOSING DATES

Memorial Day..... Monday, May 25, 2020

Independence Day Friday, July 3, 2020

TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE

- Please be sure to return cartridges in the container that matches the book or magazine.
- If you receive large print or audio magazines, please return them to the library when you are finished reading them.
- If there is a problem with a cartridge or the cartridge is missing, put a note in the case or a rubber band around the damaged cartridge. Please do not write on the cartridge, case, or any labels on these items.
- If you often replace your smartphone, there is a maximum number of devices you can have registered with BARD. Please notify us when you get a new phone so we can delete the old one from your account.
- Please contact us if your phone number or email address changes.

Library Patrons Please Note: This newsletter is available in braille and on digital cartridge. If you would like to receive this publication in braille or digital cartridge, mark the appropriate box below and return the form to the library or call us toll-free at 1-888-388-2460.

Digital Cartridge

Braille

A total of 11,500 copies of this publication were printed at a cost not exceeding \$2,320.00 or approximately \$0.20 per copy. Funding for the issue is being provided by the Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Name

Address



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State Library of North Carolina
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