MEET THE STAFF

We sat down to interview our newest NCLBPH staff members, Sarah Brackett & Caryl Klemm. Below is our question and answer session:

What is your job title and what do you do?

Sarah: My job title is Reader Advisor. My main job is to make sure our patrons are happy. This entails answering any questions they may have about their service, and assigning books for them based on their preferences.

Caryl: My position is Processing Assistant II. I work in the back in the warehouse.
for the NC Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. I am part of the crew that sends out all the digital, large print and braille books.

**Where did you work before you came here and what did you do?**

**Sarah:** I worked at Petsmart Petshotel where I took care of pets staying overnight by feeding them and playing fetch pretty much non-stop.

**Caryl:** I worked at the RDU5 Amazon Warehouse in Durham, NC. There I separated packages that came in on the trucks to the different zip codes for delivery to the customers. Before that, I ran an auto repair shop in Cary for 15 years. I also ran a repossession company in Cary for 3 years.

**What are your Hobbies?**

**Sarah:** I like playing board/video games and writing, but most of all, I love to read.

**Caryl:** I love animals so I would say they are my hobby. I have a 13-year-old dog named Jane, a turtle, and a peacock right now. I used to raise ball python snakes and rats. I really want to get back into that soon.

**Why did you want to work at the library?**

**Sarah:** People always say to get a job doing something you love. I have always loved reading and sharing that love of books with others. I have also always felt at home in libraries. This job doesn’t even really feel like work.

**Caryl:** My dad had vision problems and had been a ferocious reader beforehand. I am sorry to say that back then in the 1980’s I had never known that this library existed. I am excited to work here knowing that I can help people be able to feed the need to read.

**What is your Favorite Book and why?**

**Sarah:** That is an impossible
question to answer. I love many books equally. I can probably narrow it down to the top five by genre. I will give you my top three classics: The Count of Monte Cristo because the count’s revenge reflects the various motives of the perpetrators without being predictable, Brave New World because I love dystopian science fiction, White Fang because I fell in love with animals early (I also have fond memories of this book from my childhood), Letters from the Earth because this book provides food for thought plus the author is more sarcastic than I am (not an easy feat), and A Tale of Two Cities because of the various imagery and metaphors. These five sprang to mind; however, this list is subject to change.

Caryl: I cannot pick just one favorite book – I love way too many. I can give you a list of my favorite authors however. One is Hunter S. Thompson. I love all his books, even his old magazine articles. I also like Anne Rice’s The Vampire Chronicles. A third writer is Christine Feehan, who wrote The Dark Carpathian series and the Dark Shadow series. I enjoy the Anita Blake series by Laurell K. Hamilton and the Black Dagger Brotherhood series. Finally, I like Charlaine Harris’ Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood series.

What are your Favorite types of books?

Sarah: I will read anything, but my favorite genres are romance, dystopian science fiction, and suspense/thrillers.

Caryl: I love reading almost anything. My favorites right now are paranormal (vampire) and autobiographies or biographies about musicians. As a matter of fact, I am reading Slash right now.

What movie would you take to a desert island?

Sarah: I don’t watch very many movies. I would take Buffy the
Vampire Slayer (the TV show not the movie) if I could.

Caryl:  *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*. I could watch any Johnny Depp movie all day and every day!

**What song would you sing if you were on American Idol?**

Sarah:  I would sing “Emotions” by Mariah Carey. Go big or go home. I think she hits seven different octaves in this song. Seriously if you haven’t heard the song listen to it. At one point her voice is reminiscent of birdsong. (Not an exaggeration… literally birdsong). This is presuming I have been granted magical singing abilities from a fairy as no other set of circumstances would see me on American Idol.

Caryl:  I would never be on *American Idol* as I cannot sing worth a dang. If I could, I would have a hard time choosing between something by Aerosmith, Journey, Shinedown or Paul Phillips.
Hello to all of our Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (FNCLBPH):

First, let me say thanks to all of you who have either renewed your membership or joined the Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped this year. As you know, our membership operates on the calendar year, and memberships are renewed annually. With your continued support, we are able to provide and enhance the services and programs of the FNCLBPH. We thank you for your continued support.

As many of you know, our Board suffered a great loss in November with the death of James Benton, Sr. He was a long-time supporter of the Friends organization and patron of the NCLBPH. As a result of your generous donations and memberships, we are very pleased to announce the James Benton Braille Writer Program. James was a very strong advocate and user of braille, and he was very excited about this prospective new program. The Board felt it most fitting to name this program in memory of James and his dedication to braille and the blindness community. His actions and commitment to the Friends Board will be remembered and will live long in this organization.
In a nutshell, the Braille Writer Program has been developed to assist individuals who are in need of securing a braille writer for their personal use. Braille writers are very expensive, and this prevents many individuals from being able to obtain one. We have found over the years that many persons who have lost their sight, and who are not in a position to receive resources or services from other institutions, may not be able to personally acquire a braille writer for their own use. These individuals are unable to develop appropriate braille skills that will allow them to gain independence, and develop the only true form of written communication for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

This braille writer program will assist these individuals with the ability to obtain a braille writer for their own use. The FNCLBPH has received a commitment from an authorized braille writer repair specialist to bring used equipment up to code. This equipment will then be given to a qualifying individual who has no other resources available to them to acquire a braille writer.

It is our goal that this program will empower many braille users across our state to further their ability to live independently by being able to read and write in their own medium.

For more information about the application process and who is eligible, please check out our website at www.friendsnclbph.org or send me an email at info@friendsnclbph.org. Funding is limited for this program, but we will do our best to honor all applications received.

Please see page 9 for an application to initiate or renew your membership with the FNCLBPH. You can also become a member online by linking to membership on our website at www.friendsnclbph.org. If you have any questions about how to donate to the Friends, please contact me. I wish all the best to each of you for a wonderful summer!

- Eddie Weaver, President
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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:

☐ Individual $10        ☐ Family $15
☐ Hundred Dollar Club $100 ☐ Plus Club $300
☐ Life Membership $500   ☐ Other $ _____
☐ Professional $10       ☐ Organization $50

Make checks payable to FNCLBPH and mail with this form to:
FNCLBPH, 1841 Capital Boulevard, Raleigh, NC 27635

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Congratulations to Our 2017 Summer Readers!

Every Summer, our library participates in a Program known across the country as **Summer Reading** for our adult and children patrons. Participants who read the most books throughout the Summer earn prizes. In total, we can have up to 12 winners: The top 3 adult readers using BARD, the top 3 adult readers who receive their books through the mail, the top 3 children using BARD, and the top 3 children who receive books in the mail. This year, we had 60 participants in the Adult Summer Reading Program and 31 participants in the Kid’s Summer Reading Program.

Congratulations to **Valari Rios**, Our Adult Summer Reading Program Winner!

We were able to contact the winner of the Adult Summer Reading Program, **Valari Rios**, and ask her about her experience in this year’s Program:

**How did you hear about our Summer Reading Program?**
I’ve been a patron of the library for so long, I can’t quite
remember how long or how I found out about it, I think a letter came in the mail one day and I was interested in doing it. That was, I believe, seven years ago.

Was this your first time participating in our Summer Reading Program? No, I’ve joined before, but got to second place most of the times I have entered. But I was really determined to win this year!!!!

What was your favorite book you read for Summer Reading? I’ve read a lot of classics this summer, and one book I love is *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

Do you have a favorite genre? If so, what is it and why? I love anything but nonfiction, unless there’s an inspiring nonfiction story. I get bored easily, so fiction really gets my imaginative juices flowing.
Were you able to read all of the books that you wanted this summer?
I think I can read more. I love reading, so I’m pretty sure, if I really throw myself in to it, I could read a lot more.

How did you make the time to read this Summer?
I’m pretty free most of the time, so all of my free time is devoted to books.

How did you learn about our library?
I was in middle school, I had an awesome teacher who brought me books from the library. One day she had to leave and she told me to sign up for the library so I can get books of my very own.

Other than reading, how did you spend your summer?
My Summer was great! I went as a group leader to a program in Raleigh called the EYE Retreat, also known as the Envisioning Youth Empowerment Retreat. I enjoyed myself there.

How do you like your prize?
I love my prize. I purchased something of my own with my own money and I love it.

Why is reading special to you?
Reading is special to me because when you are visually impaired, you can’t really see things they try to describe in movies, when you walk in to an action-packed scene, you can see the action and with every page you turn, the action unfolds right in front of your very eyes.

Will you participate next summer?
Yes, I hope to participate every year!!!!
The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped invites you to join our 2018 Summer Reading Program!

- The program begins with books checked out from June 1st until August 31, 2018. (Only books checked out during this time period will be counted.)
- Patrons may register until July 31st.
- You can complete this form and mail it to the library, call the library to register, or sign up using our online registration form.
- Read at least 5 books to win a prize.
- Top 3 readers win gift cards.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
____________________________________________________
City: ________________ State: _______ Zip: ____________
Phone with Area Code: ________________________________

I wish to sign up for:

☐ The Kids Summer Reading Program (Ages 0-21)
☐ The Adult Summer Reading Program (Ages 21 & up)

For more information about the Summer Reading Program call NCLBPH at 1-888-388-2460 or visit our website at http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph.
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.choicemagazinelistening.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 a nclbph@ncdcr.gov

Name  
Email  
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LIBRARY CLOSING DATES

Memorial Day ........................ Monday, May 28, 2018

Independence Day ............... Wednesday, July 4, 2018

Labor Day ............................. Monday, September 3, 2018

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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.
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 $2,000.00 or approximately $0.17 per copy. Funding for the issue is being provided by the Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

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