

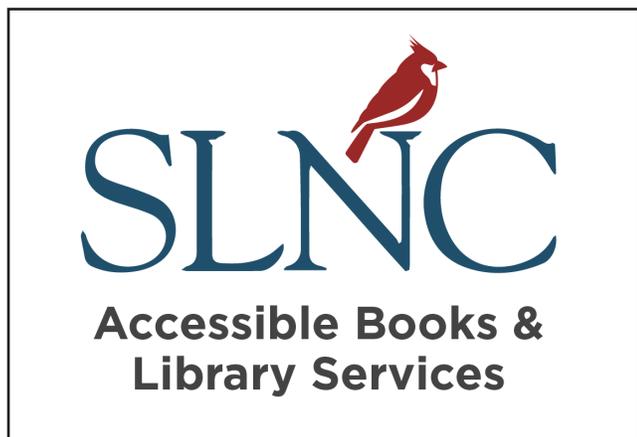
# TAR HEEL TALK

## SLNC-ABLS & Descriptive Video

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## A New Name for the Library: **SLNC-ABLS**



The NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, along with the State Library of North Carolina, are happy to announce a name change for the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The library's new name moving forward will be **State Library of North Carolina Accessible Books & Library Services, or SLNC-ABLS.**

It is a more appropriate name as it reflects our mission to enable our patrons to live more fulfilling and enriched lives. This name

change focuses more on how it provides services rather than to whom it provides services.

North Carolina residents with a print disability coming from a visual impairment, blindness, a physical disability that prevents holding a book, or a reading disability may qualify for the NC accessible books program. The library's collection includes talking books, large print books, braille books, as well as downloadable braille and talking books.

With this name change, SLNC-ABLS joins the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) and many of the talking book libraries in its network by updating their name to better reflect the services they provide. □

# DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO REVIEW



## ***Harriet: A Descriptive Movie Review***

Harriet Tubman, famed conductor on the Underground Railroad is the subject of this Descriptive video (DV). DV has descriptive narration of settings, character action, costumes, etc. when there is no dialogue. It allows the visually impaired knowledge of the action that is primarily visual.

“Harriet” opens in the 1840’s on the Brodess Farm in Maryland. Araminta “Minty” Ross has just married John Tubman, a freedman. Minty is still a slave, along with her mother and sister.

When the patriarch of the Brodess family dies, the son,

Gideon, decides to sell Minty. Minty, who suffers “spells” since being struck in the head as a child, has a vision of herself escaping to freedom. She sees these “spells” as visions from God to encourage her to run away before she is to be sold.

Minty does not run away with her new husband, fearing that he would lose his own freedom if he is caught with her. She meets with her father, who tells her to go to the Reverend Green, a black preacher, for help with her escape. Green advises her on the Underground Railroad and how to escape to freedom.

She travels all night but is

pursued by dogs and men on horseback. One of them is Gideon who pursues her to a bridge over a river, where he appeals to her faith and even promises not to sell her. Minty is faced with the choice of giving up or jumping over the bridge, possibly drowning in the process.

Minty is presumed drowned but manages to make it to Wilmington, Delaware. There she meets Thomas Garrett, the man Reverend Green advised her to go to. He takes her to the Pennsylvania border, a free state, and she walks the remaining 25 miles to Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia, she meets the abolitionist William Still. He encourages her to re-name herself, and she chooses Harriet after her mother and Tubman for her husband's last name. After that, she tells William about her childhood and her perilous journey to Philadelphia. He commends her for making it over 100 miles on her own, a feat practically unheard

of. After she tells him God gives her visions of the future to prepare and advise her, he concludes she has possible brain damage.

After a year in Philadelphia, Harriet begs William to help her family escape to the city. He tells her getting slaves free has gotten much harder. William also tells her she needs to know how to read and demands she not go as she could reveal their organization if she were caught. Harriet appeals for help from Marie Buchanon, the daughter of a freed slave. Marie gives her a dress and gun for her trip. She makes it to her husband John, only to find that he is remarried.

Devastated, Harriet prays to God, who gives her visions of her sisters escaping. He also shows future visions of her leading others to freedom. Her father tells her of other slaves who wish to escape, and she decides to free the rest of her family.

The next day Gideon discovers the five slaves who escaped. He goes after Harriet's sister, threatening her children. The sister reveals to Gideon that Harriet is still alive and came back for those who escaped. Gideon determines to find Harriet and the other slaves at all cost. They nearly capture them when God sends her visions and advises Harriet on a safer route.

Harriet continues to return south, guiding over 70 slaves to freedom as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and a myth begins to grow about her. She becomes known by the name "Moses," and never loses anyone on her daring travels on the Underground Railroad. However, when the Fugitive Slave Act passes, the escaped slaves are in jeopardy of being brought back even from free states like Pennsylvania. Gideon is livid when he discovers that Harriet is "Moses." Gideon pursues her to

Philadelphia. Harriet then flees to Canada.

Over time, the Brodess farm falls into financial hardship. Mrs. Brodess vows to catch Harriet, using her sister's children as bait, but Harriet's team overwhelms Gideon's family and free the last remaining Brodess slaves.

Cynthia Erivo plays a convincing Harriet. The film received several nominations for awards. Erivo was nominated for Best Actress at the Academy Awards, Golden Globes, and the Screen Actors Guild. For the song "Stand Up," Erivo and Joshua Brian Campbell received Oscar, Grammy, and Golden Globe nominations. The film also does a good job of showing what a big influence religion was in Harriet's life, and how many of her actions are taken due to her visions from God. All in all, an exciting and informative movie about an inspiring American heroine. MD001671 □

# DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO SERVICE



## Welcome to the world of described videos!

Our Descriptive Video Service (DVS) is made possible by the State Library of North Carolina and the Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

DVS movies have a voice describing actions, characteristics, and dress of the actors as well as details of the scenery or setting. This descriptive voice speaks during the time when there is no dialogue. These videos and movie discs can be enjoyed by everyone, both sighted and visually impaired. Our videos and movie discs play on ordinary VCRs, DVD players, and televisions. The

library does not loan or repair video equipment.

Currently, we have over 800 videos in our collection, including older and contemporary titles, as well as titles for children.

You must be an active library patron to join the DVS club. There is a one-time membership fee of \$20; however, if you lose or damage a movie, you will need to join again by paying another \$20. All movies go through the mail Free Matter for the Blind. Individuals may borrow one movie at a time; institutions may borrow up to three. The loan period is three weeks.

When we receive your membership form and fee, we will

send you a catalog of DVS titles, which you may use to order movies. The library staff doesn't make movie selections for you; it is your responsibility to ensure that the library has a list of requests. You may send your requests by mail, or phone in up to 12 at a time on our toll-free line at **1-888-388-2460**. You may send as many requests as you like, but we can't send the movies in any particular order or guarantee a specific time when they will be sent. Please order your movies by catalog number. As we receive a returned movie in the mail, we will send another. Please remember that we only send another movie if you have requests on file, and if your requests are available.

As new titles are added to the collection, they will be listed in the library's newsletter, Tar Heel Talk. We update the catalog every two years. If you would like to subscribe to the DVS program, or have questions about it, call the library at **1-888-388-2460**.

Following is a list of Descriptive Videos that have just been added to the DVS Collection. Use the MD number to order the videos. You can order online or call the library at **1-888-388-2460**. □



*The Mauritanian*  
MD001717

*Wild Mountain Thyme*  
MD001718

*Tom and Jerry: The Movie*  
MD001719

*The Little Things*  
MD001720

*All My Life*  
MD001721

*Fatale*  
MD001722

*Let Him Go*  
MD001723

*News of the World*  
MD001724

*Tesla*  
MD001725

*My Brother's Keeper*  
MD001726

# SUMMER READING WINNERS

A graphic of a whale's tail, painted in a textured blue color, with a yellow diamond shape at the tip. The background is a light blue gradient with white brushstroke-like patterns.

## Tails & TALES

SUMMER READING

Last summer, NCLBPH (now SLNC-ABLS) held a reading contest for all our patrons. One hundred and forty-five of you read a whopping 11,685 books!

The reading contest ran from June 1st to August 31st, 2021. All books, audio, braille, and large print were counted in the total books a patron could read. Both BARD and non-BARD books were counted. We had 8 top readers, both BARD and non-BARD. These 8 top readers received Amazon gift cards as prizes for their prolific reading. Congratulations to the winners of the Summer Reading program, whose names are listed below.



### **BARD READERS**

Brooklyn Geise .....203 books

Vinnie Lambert.....247 books

Marcia Hackworth.....243 books



## NON-BARD READERS

Judy Hodges .....228 books  
 Ronald Rice.....211 books  
 Mary Best .....201 books



## YOUTH READERS

Layla Hildenbrand .....203  
 (BARD)  
 Alondra Pagan-Galarza ....247 books  
 (BARD)

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**Internet Catalog, Ordering Site:** [ncbph.klas.com](http://ncbph.klas.com)

# FRIENDS CORNER



**Dear Friends,**

One of our missions here at the Friends is Braille literacy. I want to address that in this column. I have been thinking about how I can impress upon you, the reader, why Braille literacy is so important. Then in a case of serendipity, I happened upon a post on Facebook that expressed my thoughts better than I could. I asked the writer to allow me to share her wisdom with you. Here is Danya Simkus' post from the Blind & Vision Support Facebook page dated November 24th, 2021:

*"I just had a braille epiphany!*

*When I first started learning braille, it was because I was blind and I couldn't read any of my books. I thought that I was going to be reading braille books... But I just realized that you learn braille so that you can write.*

*I do all of this with voice to text of course, but it changes the words. It changes things on me. It's an incredible technology, but still nothing can replace my ability to write words on the page that I can then read later, or the others can read.*

*Today I have been practicing and learning how to input braille*

*on my iPhone and iPad. It is extremely frustrating because I'm not very good at it yet. But I suddenly started thinking about Louis Braille, 14-year-old, when he invented braille he didn't do it to read braille books... There weren't any lol. He did it so that he could write.*

*I am often frustrated that I have trouble reading with my fingers, but it just occurred to me that the entire point of it is to be able to write it. I hope it's not too silly but it was a little bit profound so I thought I would share that. I encourage anybody who can to learn braille. It doesn't really matter if you can't feel it with your fingers. Learn to write it. Learn the code. Just knowing the code... It's kind of an incredible thing. I'm thankful for a lot of things in my life. But today I am especially thankful for braille!"*

Friends, Danya hits the nail on the head with her realization

that not only do we need to read, but we NEED to write. We need to serve on boards and committees and join groups to advocate for our vision community. To be effective advocates we need to be able to take notes and WRITE. To be employed and/or go to college we need to read and WRITE. So many people who experience reduced vision or blindness give up the writing. They listen to audio books, etc. So many children in our public schools are given audio materials and technology. Is audio the best choice for them? We don't know. They don't have the access to qualified Braille instructors or educational materials in Braille. Writing Braille with a stylus exercises and develops our brains in ways that typing on a keyboard or doing voice to text does not.

I recently worked with a student

with blindness who dropped out of high school because they could not provide him with the Braille materials he needed. He and his family got so frustrated that they left the school system. The last I heard he still had not finished high school or gotten his GED. Sadly, this is not uncommon ([brailleworks.com/braille-literacy-statistics](http://brailleworks.com/braille-literacy-statistics)).

Lately I have been looking at employment for our vision community. The numbers show that only about 30% of people with visual impairment are employed. Here is a kicker for you, 90% of that 30% employed are

Braille users ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braille\\_literacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braille_literacy)). “Literacy goes beyond being able to read and write” ([brailleworks.com/braille-literacy-statistics](http://brailleworks.com/braille-literacy-statistics)).

OK...OK... I will get off my soap-box now. You can help! Join the Friends and help us support and promote Braille literacy. Go to our website at [www.friendsn-clbph.org](http://www.friendsn-clbph.org) or give us a call at the library **984-236-1100**, ask for the Friends. Literacy ROCKS!

**Susan L. King**

President, Friends Board ☐

# **FRIENDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**medicare**

## **MEDICARE INFORMATION IN ACCESSIBLE FORMATS**

Medicare provides free auxiliary aids and services, including information in accessible formats like braille, large print, data or audio files, relay services and TTY communications. If you request information in an accessible format, you won't be disadvantaged by any additional time necessary to provide it. This means you'll get extra time to take any action if there's a delay in fulfilling your request.

To request Medicare or Marketplace information in an accessible format you can:

**1. Call us**

- For Medicare: **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**
- TTY: **1-877-486-2048**

**2. Send us a fax: 1-844-530-3676**

**3. Send us a letter:**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Offices of Hearings and Inquiries (OHI)  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S1-13-25  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Attn: Customer Accessibility Resource Staff**

- Your request should include your name, phone number, type of information you need (if known), and the mailing address where we should send the materials. We may contact you for additional information.
- Note: If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan or Medicare drug plan, contact your plan to request its information in an accessible format.
- For Medicaid, contact your State Medicaid office.

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## CRAIG'S DESK PODCAST



From Craig's Desk to you...some content intended for people who are blind or print impaired by Craig Hayward, Systems and Digital Services Librarian (aka The Tech Librarian).

Hi there readers! As mentioned in an article from the Summer 2021 issue of Tar Heel Talk, the library now has a podcast on offer called Craig's Desk hosted by me, the technology librarian. It is intended to answer your reading and library technology questions in a more direct audio format. Over the past 14 years that I've been at the library, I've answered what seems like hundreds of questions from patrons about all of the reading technology we offer. I thought this forum would be a good way to share things with you, our readers and patrons, in some way that might be easier than just reading about it in a frequently asked questions section on our website.

On the show, we talk about the changes in the library's evolving service and how to find more things to read. We want to make

it easier to navigate and empower you to do more yourself, so you can control your own reading. If you're wondering how many different ways you can read a book, we'll find out together on the show. Want to use the library's online catalog to find more books from your favorite author? Ask away and we'll show you how to do it.

On that topic, I'd love to hear from you. Without you, I don't have much of a show. Please send me your questions big or small to [nclbph.tech.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:nclbph.tech.librarian@gmail.com).

In addition to answering your questions, I use this show as a way to let you know about some of the great reader and other useful resources on the library's website, and an inside look at some things that you have asked about coming in NLS's future, like the braille e-reader, the future of BARD and the Marrakesh pilot.

For example, in case you missed it, on the last episode, we had one of my favorite segments. It featured a wonderful interview with our Writing Contest participants. All about why they write and what they like to write about. It was very inspirational and shows you why we have the most awesome patrons around!!! On future episodes we plan to have some more interviews of patrons and staff on offer. Stay tuned and please check out the show so you don't miss it.

If you are a regular podcast listener, Craig's Desk is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and our platform called PodBean. To find the show use your favorite podcatching app and search for Craig's Desk. If you don't regularly listen to podcasts it just so happens on our first episode of Craig's Desk we introduced you to how to listen to Podcasts. After you listen to that one, I recommend going back for more episodes from our podcast website, provided for us generously by the State Library of North Carolina, at [nccraigdesk.podbean.com](http://nccraigdesk.podbean.com).



## **NEW TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE**

- You may return material now. We are checking in and checking out material.
- If you receive cartridges, please return the cartridges one at a time.
- If you leave a phone message, please spell your last name, state the city you live in, and leave us a phone number to respond to your call if necessary. Also, due to possible phone connection problems it always helps to repeat the phone number if possible.
- If you are calling for someone else please leave their name and city, so we can pull up their record in our computers and would have another contact number if we can't reach you.
- In order to avoid a delay in your service, notify us immediately of any change of address.
- If you email the library, please include your name, phone number, and mailing address in the email.

# **LIBRARY CLOSING DATES**

**Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day..... Monday, January 17, 2022**

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## **DOWNLOAD SOMETHING NOBLE**

One of the many services we offer our patrons is access to our version of BARD we call NOBLE (North Carolina BARD Local). NOBLE features digital braille books and digital talking books and magazines which are published in North Carolina and produced by our library. While there is no patron application necessary to use NOBLE, all media downloaded from NOBLE can only be played on a digital book player approved by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. You may visit NOBLE to see if there is anything you would like to download by going to [bit.ly/LBPH-NOBLE](https://bit.ly/LBPH-NOBLE).

# STAFF INTERVIEW

Lornita Turnage is our new Patron Processing Assistant. She joined the library staff in November 2021. Lornita brings a wealth of experience working in libraries and has a wide range of interesting hobbies. Join us for a conversation with Lornita to get to know her.

**Q: What is your job title and what do you do?**

**A:** My job title is Patron Processing Assistant, and my primary responsibilities will be creating and maintaining patrons' records. I will also help patrons request items via the telephone or mailed in readers interest forms.

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

**A:** I have worked for thirteen years in public libraries as a library assistant. During my last six years, I also supervised three library pages. Prior to working in public libraries, I worked for



Patron Processing  
Assistant Lornita Turnage

three and a half years in a law library.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

**A:** I enjoy hikes, trying new restaurants, learning to cook healthier recipes, watching films or plays and shopping. Lastly, I also enjoy listening to music and discovering new artists and music genres.

**Q: Why did you want to work at LBPH?**

**A:** Simply, I saw the opportunity to work in another type of library.

**Q: What is your favorite book and why?**

**A:** Any book by J. California Cooper. I love her superior storytelling that moves you emotionally. My favorite titles are her short story collections.

**Q: What are your favorite types of books?**

**A:** My favorite authors are Mary Monroe, J. California Cooper and Eric Jerome Dickey. I also

enjoy mysteries, thrillers and nonfiction.

**Q: What movie would you take to a desert island?**

**A:** Since I must watch it repeatedly, maybe I should take The Five Heartbeats.

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

**A:** What the World Needs Now. □