

What's Poppin' with the Paraprofessionals

October 2016

South Carolina Library Association Paraprofessional Round Table



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www.scla.org



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Dear S.C. Paraprofessionals,

It is hard to believe that 2016 is almost gone, and what a year it has been. The round table has been hard at work hosting our annual workshop this past August, preparing for the South Carolina Library Association conference in November and planning exciting new things for 2017.

Over the past several years the paraprofessional round table has really picked up steam in membership involvement, which is how we are able to put on such great events. In order for our workshops and other opportunities to continue we have to keep this momentum up!

We are currently seeking new officers for the 2016-2017 year. See article regarding "seeking officers" for more info to send in your submission. By joining SCLA and participating in the paraprofessional round table you will have opportunities to present at conferences, plan and develop training as well as advance your skills in leadership positions.

We are the backbone of our libraries, the front lines and the faces that our customers know and love. We deserve a strong professional organization that supports us and understands our needs. I hope you will join in this venture!

Sincerely,

Amanda B. Reed
ABracken@RichlandLibrary.com
Chair 2015-2016



South Carolina Library Association

Upcoming Events

November 9 – 11

SCLA Annual Conference

August 2017 – Date TBA

Paraprofessional One-Day
Workshop

Seeking New Officers for 2016-2017!

**Positions available:
Chair, Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair
and Secretary**



Interested? Email a brief bio of yourself including:

- How long you have worked in libraries
- What is your current position and library system
- First and second choice of position
- How long you have been involved with SCLA
- If you are attending the SCLA conference in November

**Submit by November 7th to
ABracken@RichlandLibrary.com**

Let's Hear From You!

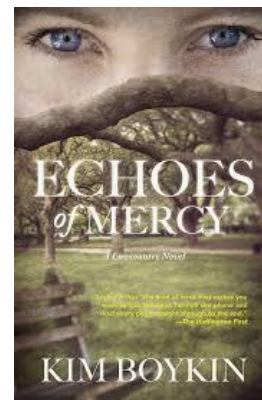
Have you recently hosted an interesting program, read a great book or just have something you'd like to share with other paraprofessionals in South Carolina? Send us a 200-300 word write up about it. We will choose one or two to post in our next newsletter to be published April 2017.

Send submissions to: ABracken@RichlandLibrary.com before March 15, 2017.

BOOK REVIEW!

Echoes of Mercy by Kim Boykin

Submitted by: Donna Ciriello of Lexington County Public Library



You know how some authors get into a pattern with their work and after reading a few you can guess where the new one is going? That is not the case here. This is not a typical Kim Boykin book. Previously, Kim has written women's fiction and romance. Those are the standard genre headings and her work in those genres checked all the required boxes. In the women's fiction we met female main characters who were at pivotal moments in their lives and had to overcome obstacles in order to become who they were meant to be. The romance titles of course ended with a happily ever after. These are expected elements and Kim writes them very well, but now she's venturing into a new world.

Echoes of Mercy has a strong, female main character, Billie Warren, who would probably say she has enough obstacles in her life, thank you very much. Billie does have a love interest and would like nothing more than to have her happily ever after, but as we've heard on the internet, "ain't nobody got time for that."

Billie has been trying to atone for past sins for 40 years. She's now the police chief of her small South Carolina town. Her teenage daughter and new grandson live with her. And her mother is slowly being stolen away by Alzheimer's. Billie is stretched so thin taking care of everyone else that she has no time for herself. She certainly doesn't have the time or energy to be the woman Cole deserves.

When Sadie Bird, the object of Billie's greatest sin, shows up to give witness to a murder that was put to rest decades earlier, Billie's world is turned upside down. Opening the case will mean opening old wounds, searching for stolen babies, and pointing fingers at the state's most beloved politician. It would be so easy to send "Crazy Sadie" back home and forget her accusations, but that's not Billie. Billie will do everything in her power to solve the mystery and make up for sins of the past. Hopefully she won't lose everyone she loves in the process.

Kim Boykin took a publishing risk by writing a different genre. Editors and publicists like to keep their authors in the appropriate boxes; makes it easier to sell books. The best authors know, however, you have to tell the story that wants to be told. In *Echoes of Mercy*, Kim Boykin creates a mystery that that will keep readers turning pages to find out where it could possibly end.

Recap of 2016 Paraprofessional Workshop "The Synergy Among Us"

Submitted by Lorraine Law of Richland Library



Over 50 paraprofessionals from all over the state met at Richland Library, Southeast on Wednesday, August 24 for the 2nd annual workshop presented by the Paraprofessional Round Table of SCLA.

It was a dynamic day of entertainment and learning commencing with our guest speaker, Karin Hill, giving a presentation on "Working Effectively in Teams." We had a challenging exercise of identifying logos and mascots of companies. When we worked on our own, we could not identify nearly as many as when we got a little help from our friends! The presentation informed us of the differences and similarities of work groups and teams, the importance of having a positive attitude, and working together while having fun in the process!

We had boxed lunches provided by Jason's Deli and played "Getting to Know You BINGO" during lunch, followed by "Speed Networking." Everyone was asked to bring a business card to exchange, form two rows and let the low-tech information highway begin! Wow, everyone had so much to say about what they are doing, the way libraries are changing, and where we are going in the future.

We wrapped up the day with a presentation from Alisha Polkowsky and Donna Ciriello (Paraprofessional of the Year for 2015!!) of Lexington Library, on "Forming Partnerships for Better Programming" and these two ladies really know their stuff! There are so many resources available for doing programming with minimal preparation from library staff such as county and government agencies, small business owners, and people you network with at the Paraprofessional Annual Workshop and by joining SCLA. Stay tuned for next year's date and agenda to be announced spring 2017!

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