

the Crab

The Digital Magazine of the Maryland Library Association
Volume 55, Number 1 • Fall, 2024



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Editor's Note

Happy autumn, *Crab* readers! As always, it is a privilege and a delight to learn about the work of creative, innovative colleagues across the state. Library workers and library advocates are doing so much in their systems and communities, and now that we have finished with the busy summer season in public libraries, you can read about several of the engaging programs and events that took place across Maryland.

Speaking of talented colleagues, I want to take a moment to thank four people whose work makes publishing *the Crab* a smooth and easy venture every quarter: Amy Miller Meyers, Regina Rose, Robert Miller, and Michaela Boyle. Our copy editors do the lion's share of the work, and they are unmatched in their attention to detail and editing skills. My gratitude is boundless, and I know our readers also appreciate the result of their hard work.

We are excited to feature some of the well-deserved awards and grants that MLA members and Maryland libraries have received in recent months. Congratulations to John Owen and the staff of the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled for their 2024 Regional Library of the Year Award from the American Library Association, and also to MLA's immediate Past President Tif Sutherland and their grant project team on MLA's selection as one of the ten pilot sites for the American Library Association's new Intellectual Freedom Helpline program. You can read about these honors as well as competitive grants awarded this summer by the Institute of Museum and Library Services via federal Library Services and Technology Act funding. Kudos to all the recipients for their initiative, hard work, and innovation.

Just a reminder that *the Crab* is published for you as library professionals—but it is also written by all of you! Your news is important, timely, and welcome. We invite

you to submit articles and features about what you see, share, present, facilitate, teach, experience, and learn in academic, public, school, and special libraries. No idea is too small to share with the wider library community in Maryland. Enjoy this issue and please keep us in mind as a forum for future publication.

Julie Fitzpatrick, MLA Crab Editor
Howard County Library System ■



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ARE ALWAYS HERE
FOR YOU.**

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ALA American Library Association



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MARYLAND
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Become a Maryland Library Advocate!

President's Message

*Teonja Jung, MLA President
Baltimore County Public Library*



HAPPY FALL, MLA. This is my favorite time of year. Cooler weather, brighter sun and shorter days mean higher energy to me. And as we enter the most colorful season with so many things happening in nature, there is also a lot happening for me as I fulfill my presidential role representing you, MLA.

Over the summer months, I have been working with many of our internal groups, building relationships and finding new ways to collaborate and be creative together. Ideas have been flowing like water and exciting possibilities are arising. Shout out to everyone who has met with me and been open to new ideas.

I attended the Statewide Staff Development Coordinators meeting in August, promoting MLA and access to all MLA has to offer for our members. I had my first press interview with WJZ-TV talking about the freedom to read and book bans. I attended my first official Maryland State Library Agency board meeting on September 11, and I am looking forward to working with our state librarian's office. In October, I will be a panel speaker to MLIS students at the University of Maryland, and then I will speak to the graduating Library Associate Training Institute class in November. I am really looking forward to sharing my library journey and explaining how MLA has benefited me.

The rest of my days are filled with helping the Conference Committee plan for the annual conference at our new venue (the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City), planning for the return of the Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute in March 2025, and working diligently with Josh on updating the MLA Manual and getting ready for the launch of our new association management system.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to all the harvest festivals and plan to attend as many as possible with my family. Maybe I'll run into you at a corn maze, apple picking or shopping for mums. ■



Photo by Iliya Jokic on Unsplash.

Vice President's Message

David Dahl

*MLA Vice President/President Elect
University of Maryland Libraries*



AS AN ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN, fall marks the return to campus for many of our students and a renewed energy for the academic year ahead (plus a bit more traffic on the roads). The drastic change in the academic library between the last day of summer and the first day of fall classes is really something to behold, like a light switch suddenly flipped on. Of course, as in all libraries, the work of academic libraries is year-round and the “quiet” summers in our colleges and universities are spent in preparation for the hustle and bustle of the fall semester. To all my academic colleagues, I wish you a great start to the academic year.

Fall is also a time filled with the voices and energy of a new cohort of member leaders in MLA, as our association’s officers settle into their new roles, myself included. As such, I am excited to be able to write to you in this first message as your Vice President! Along with many of our other new MLA leaders this year, I attended Leadership Day in June - a crash course in the roles and responsibilities that come along with MLA leadership. The annual changeover in many of our association’s roles can be challenging; a year can be over seemingly before it begins. But it also creates a system that ensures that MLA remains bigger than any one person. It ensures an organization that is sustainable yet adaptable to the changing needs of our members. Each year brings a new dynamic to MLA’s Executive Board, and I look forward to seeing that take shape this year. I know we’ll do great things!

Lastly, I want to encourage all MLA members to consider running for an MLA office. Even though new officer terms just started, it’s never too early to start thinking about next year. In fact, it’s exactly the right time because nominations are currently open! MLA relies

on members like you to take the brave step of running for office and serving as MLA’s next cohort of leaders. In addition to helping MLA, it’s a great opportunity for personal and professional growth. I’m confident that any recent MLA leader would agree. Nominations, including self-nominations, are open until October 30. Email Nominations Chair Nay Keppler (nkeppler@bcpl.net) to nominate yourself or someone else. ■

Report from MLA's ALA Chapter Councilor

Joseph Thompson, Carroll County Public Library

I'VE NOW SERVED as your Maryland Library Association representative on the Council of the American Library Association (ALA) for one full year. I'll be reporting here on Council actions that took place during the ALA Annual Conference in San Diego over June 29 – July 1, 2024, plus an additional special online Council meeting on July 23.

A brief meeting of the ALA Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) first took place on Saturday, June 29. If you're not familiar with the ALA-APA, it is a companion nonprofit organization to the ALA, chartered for the purpose of promoting the mutual professional interests of librarians and other library workers. There was only one action item at this meeting, which was to vote on a general revision of the ALA-APA Bylaws in order to align them with the Revised ALA Bylaws approved by the ALA membership in Spring 2023. I voted yes and the revision passed.

ALA President Emily Drabinski called the ALA Council I meeting to order. Cindy Hohl, ALA President-Elect, presented the Nominations for the 2024-2025 Council Committee on Committees and 2024-2025 Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA) Election. I was among those nominated as a chapter representative to serve on PBA.

The first item of new business was a Resolution to Support AASL School Library Chapters and ACRL Academic Library Chapters [ALA CD#51]. In many states, these chapters are separate entities from the state chapter. For example, here in Maryland, ACRL-MD is a part of MLA while the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) is not. In some states and situations, the AASL and ACRL chapters have not received the same benefits from ALA. This resolution proposed to form a task force to better understand potential inequities and consider action steps to retain and broaden services made available from certain ALA offices. It was confirmed that ALA has no financial obligation to create this task force. I voted yes and the resolution passed. A report is expected for the ALA Annual Conference 2025.

The second item of new business was a Resolution Reaffirming ALA's Commitment to Intellectual Freedom and issuing a Call to Action [ALA CD#52]. The resolution detailed the profound increase in book challenges that have taken place across the United

States in recent years, as documented by the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom. The overwhelming majority of these challenges are towards titles that represent the views and voices of historically marginalized groups. Among the actions called for by the resolution, it condemns, in the strongest possible terms, any and all efforts to remove materials from library shelves, and efforts to prevent minors from accessing developmentally relevant library materials. It calls upon concerned people everywhere to petition their elected officials to protect, preserve, and defend the First Amendment. The resolution passed unanimously with 162 votes yes, zero votes no, and zero abstentions. The Council I meeting then adjourned.

Council II began on Sunday, June 30 with a report from the Committee on Organization [ALA CD#27.1]. There were four action items included in this report. First, there was a request to form a new Makerspace Round Table. During the discussion it was pointed out that the CORE division has an interest group already focused on makerspaces. Others expressed concern that it may not be the right time to add a new round table while work is underway to review ALA's operating agreement with the divisions and round tables. An amended resolution was presented to table the vote on this until LibLearnX 2025. I was inclined to take action now, so voted against tabling the vote. In the end the vote to table action until LibLearnX was approved. So, makerspaces will rise again in Phoenix, AZ at LibLearnX 2025. Second, action was requested to change the name of the Training, Orientation, Leadership Development Committee (TOLD) to the ALA Leadership Development Committee. I voted yes and that action passed. Third, the ALA Affiliate Working Group recommended the establishment of an ALA Affiliate Committee. I voted yes and the motion carried. Fourth, action was requested by the committee itself for the Discontinuance of the Committee on Research and Statistics (CORS). The duties of CORS had become unclear to committee members and the committee's staff liaison since staffing changes were made in 2019. I voted yes on discontinuation and the motion carried.

The ALA Policy Monitoring Committee presented their report [ALA CD#17.1]. The ALA Policy Monitoring Committee is responsible for calling the Council's attention to outdated items to be retired from the manual or to gaps in the presentation of policies. Three items were recommended for deletion due to dated language or the item being addressed by laws passed since that time: Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Information in Libraries (Approved July 3, 1980); Nuclear Freeze, the Arms Race and National Security (Approved January 11, 1984); and AIDS Screening (Approved January 18, 1989). I voted yes on the deletion of each, and the motion carried on all three actions.

At the start of the Council II meeting, President Emily Drabinski requested additional time at the end for Council to discuss the future of ALA. Another councilor

requested time for a discussion on the Future of LibLearnX, and another councilor requested time to discuss work taking place to update the Operating Agreement. A vote to discuss the Operating Agreement was voted down (I also voted no), since the ALA Treasurer noted that work was only beginning, and no recommendations were yet ready to present. A councilor also put forth an action to allow Council a one-time extension of the deadline for resolutions to be voted on in Council III. I voted against the deadline extension, but it passed. That concluded Council II.

Council III took place the morning of Monday, July 1 and opened with the presentation of Memorial Resolutions and Tribute Resolutions. The results of the Council Committee on Committees and Planning and Budget Assembly (PBA) Elections were presented at this meeting, and I was among those elected as a PBA Chapter Councilor. The Committee on Legislation (of which I am a member) presented a report [ALA CD#20.1], that included one action item, the Resolution Urging Library Workers and Supporters to Participate in the 2024 Elections. I voted yes and the motion carried.

New business at Council III included a Resolution on the Working Group for ALA Societal Statement Guidelines [ALA CD#53]. It observed (in the “whereas” statements) that the ALA is a member of the Center for Association Leadership (ASAE) and that ASAE has developed a framework for societal statements, intended to serve as a “framework to help ASAE evaluate when and how the organization issues public statements about national and societal issues.” ALA has no such set of association-wide guidelines. This resolution directed the ALA Executive Board to create a working group to review the ASAE Societal Statement Framework and develop criteria for the ALA to be brought to Council via resolution for discussion at Annual 2025. I fully agree that ALA needs a statement of this kind in order to stay focused on those issues that are at the core of libraries and library work, so voted yes. The motion carried.

A councilor then brought forward a resolution to Update the Recently Removed Language in the ALA Policy Manual. If this motion had carried, it would have effectively overturned the vote at Council II the day before to delete the outdated statements in the ALA Policy Manual. I voted no and the motion did not carry.

President Emily Drabinski then provided a brief update on the upcoming vacancy in the office of Vice President. For background, on June 9, 2024, Dr. Ray Pun notified the Executive Board that he would be unable to serve as the 2024-2025 President-Elect, thus creating a vacancy in the office of Vice President at the conclusion of ALA Annual Conference 2024.

Following the process laid out in the ALA Bylaws, a Special Council Meeting was held online on July 23 to resolve the vacancy, and I participated. Cindy Hohl, now ALA

President, presided over this meeting. She reviewed the Adoption of Rules & Guidelines for ALA Virtual Council Meetings as well as the meeting Agenda. The single purpose for this meeting was for ALA Council to confirm the ALA President-Elect appointment by the ALA Executive Board. The proposed action was to confirm that the 2024-2025 ALA Council approves the 2024-2025 ALA Executive Board recommendation of Sam Helmick to fulfill the 2024-2025 ALA President-elect vacancy, serving as the 2024-2025 ALA President-elect, 2025-2026 ALA President, and 2026-2027 Immediate Past President. Background on the actions leading up to this point by the Working Group were presented. I voted yes on confirming Sam Helmick to fill this vacancy. Sam served as a chapter leader (Iowa Library Association President, 2023) and as a member of ALA Executive Board; I believe that Sam has the experience and good judgement necessary to serve ALA in this capacity. Council approved the action.

If you are an ALA member, I encourage you to log into the [ALA website](#) to review the reports submitted before the conference by the ALA committees and presented as part of the Consent Agenda. It’s a good way to learn about the important work happening across the association.

As of this writing, the next ALA Council meetings will take place during the ALA LibLearnX Conference 2025 in Phoenix, AZ in January 2025. Phoenix is currently the last scheduled in-person winter ALA conference. The winter meetings going forward are expected to be online-only.

I’ll be providing a report following up on those meetings in a future issue of *the Crab*. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Maryland representative to the ALA Council. As always, if you have any questions about the work of ALA Council, please don’t hesitate to contact me!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Please mark your calendar to save the date of Saturday, November 2 for the Citizens for Maryland Libraries 2024 Annual Conference for Friends, Trustees and Library Supporters.

This year the program will feature Lisa Varga, Library Journal's 2024 Librarian of the Year. Her topic will be "Preserving Freedom: Librarians as Guardians Against Censorship."

The event will take place at the Bowie Branch of Prince George's County Memorial Library System.
15210 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, MD 20715

The program will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Morning refreshments and a box lunch will be provided.

Ready to start your journey to financial freedom?
Join us for a free seminar with Barcelle today and let's help you reach your goals!

Registration opens October 2nd. Mark the date now!
<http://www.citizensformarylandlibraries.org/>

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Named Regional Library of the Year

Ashley Biggs, Maryland State Library Agency

The Maryland State Library Agency is pleased to announce that the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), under the Library of Congress, has honored the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBDP) as the Regional Library of the Year for 2024. This specialized library—unique in its comprehensive services—caters to those who are unable to access traditional print.

“While NLS administers the national program, it’s our network libraries that enroll patrons and provide direct service to them,” said NLS Director Jason Broughton. “It’s to these libraries that patrons turn first when they have questions about service or equipment, when they want recommendations for books to read, and when they want to connect with other book lovers. The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled goes above and beyond that core mission by sponsoring programs, events, and classes that are educational, creative, and just plain fun.”

Under the direction of John Owen, LBDP serves nearly 7,000 customers throughout Maryland. In addition to loaning materials in audio and Braille, LBDP has a collection of large-print books for youth and adults. LBDP offers its patrons access to NFB-NEWSLINE, the National Federation of the Blind’s audio news service, and Bookshare,



John Owen, Director, Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

which provides additional audio and e-books.

Among its other services, LBDP provides access to college textbooks through the Maryland Accessible Textbook program (MAT) and offers assistive technology training through the Technology User Group (TUG). The MAT program, which was established to serve Marylanders attending two- to four-year colleges within the state, contributed to the academic success of nearly 100 students in 2023 through accessible textbooks.

“This award recognizes the excellent customer service that each and every MD LBDP staff member gives every day,” Owen said. “This is a team award, and I celebrate their commitment and creativity to the mission ‘That All May Read.’”

LBDP’s 21 staff members include Youth Services Librarian and 2024 Library Journal Mover & Shaker LaShawn Myles who works with young patrons, parents, guardians, teachers and schools. The library also has a Marketing

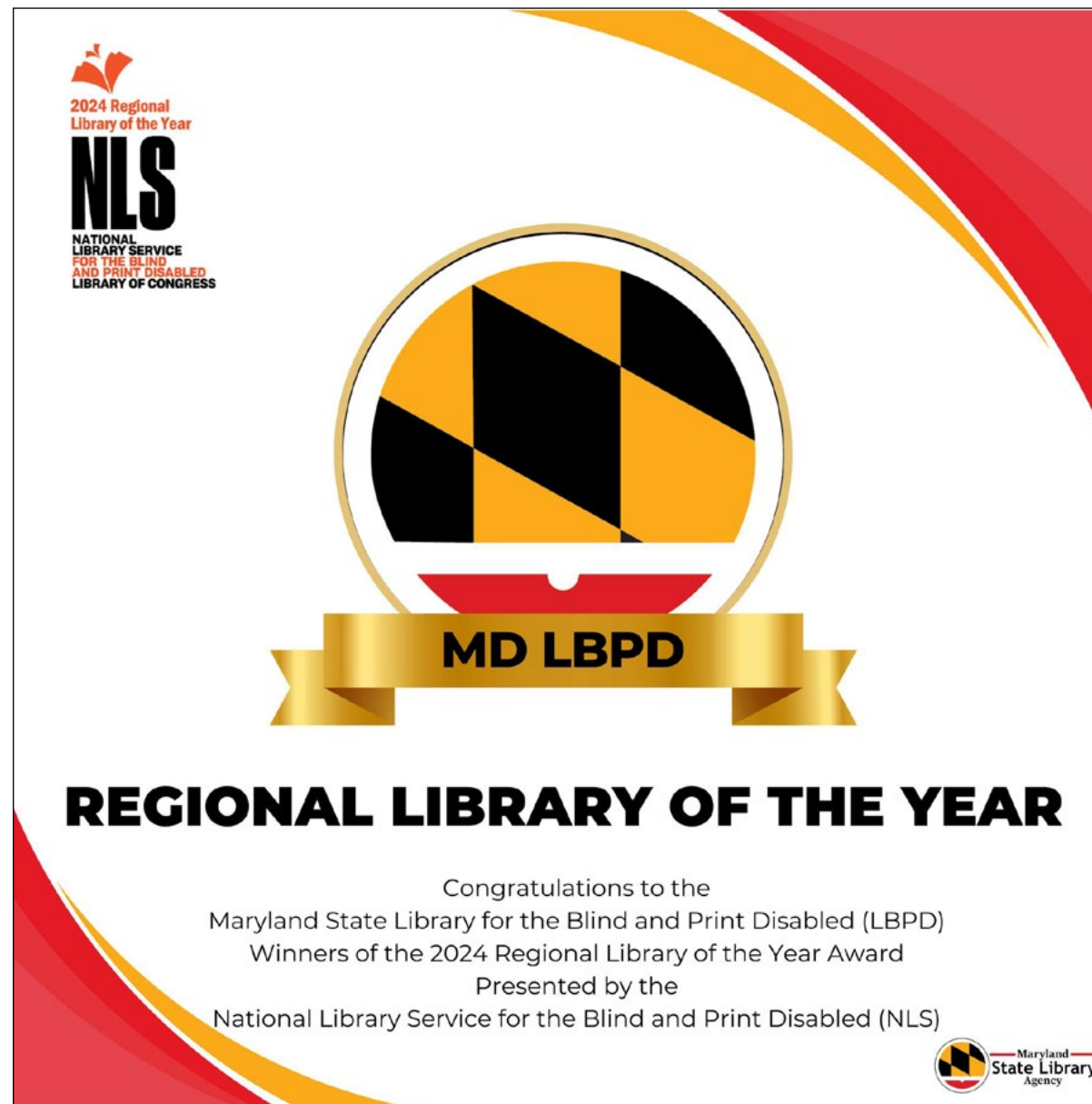
and Outreach Librarian who provides adult event opportunities and coordinates outreach. The Patron Services Librarian and a team of two manage reference services and readers advisory. The Collection Development Librarian and Recording Studio Manager curate the large-print and “Marylandia” audiobook collection. A Technical Services team is responsible for creating, pulling and shipping books and magazines across the state.

“I’m thrilled for the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and for the dedicated staff and leadership team that helped make this award possible,” said Maryland State Librarian Morgan Lehr Miller. “LBDP provides invaluable resources for our communities and plays a key role in making Maryland libraries and the services they provide accessible to all.”

For more information about the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, [visit the website](#) or call 410-230-2424.

About the Maryland State Library Agency

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) is an independent agency providing strategic leadership and guidance to Maryland's public libraries. MSLA promotes the planning and implementation of library programs, supports staff and career development through education and training, and facilitates resource sharing among libraries. MSLA oversees the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Maryland's Public Libraries, the State Library Network, the Public Library Capital Grants Program, and the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library.



Maryland Libraries Receive Federal Grants

Tim Pratt, Maryland State Library Agency

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) is pleased to announce that public library systems across the state this summer received nearly \$268,000 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding. These competitive grants—supported by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—assist staff development, innovative pilot projects, and preparedness by funding strategic and facility master plans.

“As Maryland’s public libraries continue to grow, LSTA funding is critical to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve,” said Maryland State Librarian Morgan Lehr Miller. “We’re grateful to IMLS for its continued support of Maryland’s libraries and for its help funding the tools and resources our libraries provide for all Marylanders.”

Every year, MSLA distributes nearly \$2 million of LSTA funds to Maryland public libraries. The MSLA Public Libraries and State Networking Branch (PLSNB) serves as grant liaisons to public libraries that receive these LSTA funds. The following library systems received funding in the latest grant cycle:

Baltimore County Public Library

The library system’s Long-Term Device Lending Library will continue to provide much needed internet access and Chromebook devices to customers with demonstrated need.

Calvert Library

Funding will support ongoing strategic plan efforts that focus on early literacy, engaging community

members of all ages, and issues of access, anti-racism and inclusion.

Carroll County Public Library

The library system will contract with external experts to guide them through the strategic planning process so the library system can better serve patrons and adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Charles County Public Library

Funding will allow the library system to utilize cutting edge software and equipment to offer patrons the opportunity to develop essential on-the-job skills by completing courses on trades including HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and more via library and personal devices.

Frederick County Public Library

As part of an effort to demystify artificial intelligence (AI), this funding will support a free author event for the public that allows for engagement and dialogue about AI, and provide in-person training and learning opportunities for public library staff to become more familiar with how AI might impact library services.

Howard County Library System

Libraries and AI for You will equip library instructors to design and lead AI literacy classes grounded in the library system’s values of responsible use, teach community members and library coworkers how to use generative AI, and offer solutions to greatly improve the quality of their lives.

Howard County Library System

The library system’s Seed Library provides the public with opportunities to develop their own at-home gardens and encourages healthy, sustainable lifestyles by offering seeds for free and hosting educational presentations and events.

Kent County Public Library

Kent County Public Library’s Cultivating Community Programming Series aims to empower and engage multi-generational community members through hands-on gardening experience, landscape engineering and education.

Prince George’s County Memorial Library System

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System will develop a new strategic plan for 2025 to 2028 to ensure that its vision, mission and priorities align with the changing needs of the community.

Queen Anne’s County Library

The library system will contract with an outside agency to conduct a feasibility study for a new branch in northern Queen Anne’s County.

Queen Anne’s County Library

This funding will allow the library system to purchase period product dispensers and products for public restrooms, helping the library support the community, particularly those who live in poverty and students who walk to library locations after school.

St. Mary's County Library

The library system is set to purchase tools and equipment for programming in a makerspace that will empower and foster lifelong learning in pre-K and elementary school students, addressing the need for fine motor skills development and promoting technology literacy.

Talbot County Free Library

Funding will support the library system's purchase of equipment and collections for young children, followed by a series of sensory programs for young children and their caregivers with activities that will help build efficiency skills needed for literacy development.

Wicomico Public Libraries

The Wicomico County library system will conduct a feasibility study for a site to replace its current flagship Paul S. Sarbanes Branch in downtown Salisbury with a renovated facility on the east side of the city.

Wicomico Public Libraries

The library system will establish two Memory Labs, following a model of digital preservation of personal and community materials, that will enable people with collections of analog media to convert and preserve their items in easily-savable and reproducible digital formats.

Worcester County Library

Funding for the Worcester County Heritage Project will support the library system's efforts to address gaps in local history by developing a series of digital videos. As a start to the Maryland 250 celebration, this project will help the community and visitors explore and understand the past and the area's shared cultural heritage.



About the Maryland State Library Agency

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MLA Awarded OIF Grant for Intellectual Freedom Helpline

Tiffany Sutherland, Calvert Library

The Maryland Library Association is thrilled to announce its selection as one of the ten pilot sites for the American Library Association's new Intellectual Freedom Helpline program. This prestigious grant, awarded by ALA through the generous support of Acton Family Giving and critical program support from the Mellon Foundation, will provide MLA with \$10,000 to develop and operate a confidential reporting system that addresses censorship attempts and supports intellectual freedom.

MLA will use the grant to establish an Intellectual Freedom Helpline to offer a confidential and reliable resource for individuals facing censorship challenges. The helpline will connect those in need with professional support, in-state peers, and referral to ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom as necessary. This initiative is designed to build a robust network for people who work in libraries, helping them to navigate and counteract censorship attempts effectively.

The grant also supports the ALA in collecting valuable data on censorship incidents to integrate into the ALA's national database. This data collection will help document the scope of censorship attempts and contribute to the development of resources, best practices, and the enhancement of both providing and receiving support in the realm of intellectual freedom.

"We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity from ALA, Acton Family Giving, and the Mellon Foundation," said MLA's grant project lead, Tif Sutherland. "The Intellectual Freedom Helpline will empower us to better

support our community in safeguarding First Amendment rights, ensuring that every individual's access to information remains protected and that organizations uphold Maryland's newly passed Freedom to Read Act. We look forward to working closely with ALA and other pilot sites to make this program successful."

MLA President Teonja Jung adds: "Establishing this helpline will serve as a valuable resource for librarians and library workers throughout the state, reinforcing our commitment to intellectual freedom, which is the bedrock of our work."

The grant is part of ALA's broader initiative to strengthen the framework for defending intellectual freedom nationwide. By partnering with state and school library associations, ALA aims to establish effective helplines that serve as critical resources for those facing censorship.

For more information about the Maryland Library Association's new Intellectual Freedom Helpline and its ongoing commitment to intellectual freedom, please visit mdlib.org or contact Tif Sutherland, the grant's project lead, at mla@mdlib.org. ■

2025 MLA/DLA Conference Updates

Chelsea Shockley, MLA Conference Director,
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Photographs courtesy of Chelsea Shockley.

Welcome back! I hope you all had a very brat summer (or “Bart summer,” as pictured). Conference planning is getting off to a great start, so I have a few short and sweet updates for you this time.

Our theme for the year will be MLA|DLA: The Beach Edition. We had such great ideas, and voting got a little intense this year, but the friendly competition was welcomed. In close second was Back to the Beach, with In Our Beach Era and Beach (MLA|DLA’s version) as runners-up. The logo will be coming soon, but we plan to go retro with an 80s vibe and color scheme.

By the time this edition of *the Crab* is published, conference proposal submissions will have been submitted (closing date was October 11). We are looking forward to reviewing your great session ideas covering a wide range of topics relevant to your fellow library staff across Maryland and Delaware. If you have any questions about conference programs, please reach out to us at md.la.conference@gmail.com.

As the conference returns to the beach, I’m also reminded of fond memories in Ocean City. Enjoy these (grainy) throwback photos of me circa early 1990s, and feel free to dig up your own and reminisce!

If you’d still like to join the Conference Committee or any of the sub-committees, email us at md.la.conference@gmail.com. Until next time! ■



Bart summer!



MLA Award Nominations

Catherine Hollerbach, Anne Arundel County Public Library

Please consider nominating a colleague, volunteer or library supporter for an MLA Award!

Annual Awards

Do you want to recognize that special library colleague? Maryland Library Association is accepting nominations for its awards through November 15, 2024.

Brief information on the awards can be found below. Awards will be presented at the MLA/DLA Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, May 7 - 9, 2025.

When submitting an application, please provide enough information and examples to make a strong case for your nominee.

Questions? Please contact Cathy Hollerbach at chollerbach@aacpl.net.

The Maryland Library Association presents these awards...

Distinguished Service Award

Recognizes a Maryland resident who has demonstrated effective library advocacy over an extended period of time and whose contribution to libraries transcends the boundaries of one county or political jurisdiction in Maryland.

The Margaret Carty Emerging Leader Award

Recognizes a member of MLA working in a library who demonstrates strong leadership potential and encourages the recipient to assume an increasingly responsible

role in librarianship. This award is named after former MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty, who was an outstanding mentor and colleague to new librarians and MLA members at various stages of their careers.

Honorary Membership

Recognizes a lifetime of significant contributions to libraries and librarianship.

Libraries Change Communities Award

Honoring a collaborative effort to promote innovative library-based initiatives involving the community. The award recognizes good practice in any innovative library-related effort that involves communities, demonstrates imagination and innovation, and has the potential to be developed and adapted elsewhere. Community can be defined in the broad or narrow sense depending on the collaborated effort (e.g., school or school districts, state or county agencies). The initiative should affect people's lives for the better, contribute to equality of access, and impact the end users.

MLA President's Customer Service Award

Recognizes outstanding achievement in offering customer service and providing community leadership.

Outstanding Member Award

Recognizes a member of MLA who has effectively provided sustained service to MLA and significantly enhanced its mission and goals.

Outstanding Support Staff Award

Recognizes a library paraprofessional or support staff member who made a significant contribution to libraries in Maryland. The winner of this award receives a one-year membership to MLA.

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Honors a library volunteer in Maryland who exemplifies the positive impact that volunteers can make in libraries through their outstanding service.

Project of the Year

Honoring a project completed by a group of people, exemplifying the highest level of achievement and professional standards and providing inspiration to other libraries. The project must have been operating during the previous calendar year, may involve more than one library and is open to any type of library. The committee considers the project's breadth and how much the library has improved its service due to the project. ■

News from the MLA Office

Joshua Stone, MLA Executive Director

As you may know, the Maryland Library Association (MLA) has a lot going on these days! I want to take a moment to share some of the exciting news with everyone.

MLA in the News

On September 3, MLA President Teonja Jung was featured on WJZ CBS Baltimore to discuss the Freedom to Read Act and the start of a new school year. Obviously, Teonja did an incredible job! If you haven't seen the segment, please take a few minutes to watch.

The Return of MLLI

The [Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute](#) (MLLI) is returning in March 2025! This will be the first MLLI cohort since 2019. The MLLI Planning Committee—led by Ashley Teagle and Joe Thompson—has been hard at work over the last two years reimagining and revitalizing the program to better match the current needs of Maryland library leaders. Applications for MLLI closed on October 4. To learn more about the program, please visit the MLA website.

Also, a huge shoutout to our program sponsors: Cecil County Public Library and Harford County Public Library. We truly appreciate your continued support! If your organization would also like to sponsor MLLI, please contact me at mlaexec@mdlib.org.

MLLI is a collaborative effort with the Maryland State Library Agency, supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act.




Congratulations!

Please join me in congratulating our Member Engagement Associate, Leah Sims, on her upcoming new job!! Leah recently completed her MLIS from the University of Maryland and has joined the team at the National Library of Medicine as a Research Librarian. Congratulations, Leah! Though we already miss you in the office, we are so happy for you and what you have accomplished.


More Changes?!

Finally, MLA is in the process of migrating to a new member management system. I am very excited for you all to see it when it goes live! For now, I want to share some of the exciting new things coming:

 **MLA InfoHub.** The new system will be a one-stop shop for all your membership needs. Register for events, renew your membership, connect with MLA committees, easily manage payments, and access members-only resources.

 **MLA Connect.** MLA Connect will also be getting

a makeover! The new MLA Connect will integrate seamlessly with your MLA account, so there will no longer be a need to login to two separate platforms. The new MLA Connect will also feature social groups and forums to connect with members, the ability to host video calls and meetings, and more ways to better interact with the Maryland library community.

 **Website.** You've been asking for it and it's almost here! With the new system we will also be launching a brand-new MLA website! The new website will be sleeker and easier to navigate, more mobile friendly, and more dynamic.

All these new changes will be coming over the next couple of months, so keep an eye on your inbox to continue to learn more and make sure you are one of the first to see the New MLA InfoHub! Please don't hesitate to reach out to the MLA office with any questions. ■

Youth Services Division News

Summer Rosswog, Cecil County Public Library

Hello, Summer Reading Warriors!

Summer Reading has wrapped up and it was a great one across Maryland. We want to thank everyone who made a submission on behalf of their branch/system to the summer Youth Services Division newsletter. It is exciting to see what you have been doing this summer to make it awesome for your reading communities. We learn so much from each other, one of the fantastic aspects of being MLA Youth Services Division members.

Yes, that is right, our division title has changed from Children's Services Division (CSD) to Youth Services Division (YSD). MLA members voted on and approved the title change as part of the reorganization of the MLA. So, what does that mean for our beloved division? Well, mainly that we are now referred to as YSD rather than CSD.

Karen Earp, our hardworking and tech-savvy division Secretary, is finalizing the changeover of our website and email to YSD. It also means that our division, like other MLA divisions, will be an "umbrella" for relevant interest groups. Teen Interest Group (TIG) will be tangentially joined with YSD as a result. We already collaborate with TIG on the planning and execution of Kids Are Customers Too! and co-sponsor MLA Conference sessions with them. TIG will still operate mainly like it did before this re-organization, and everything you loved about CSD is continuing as YSD. As always, YSD officers and committees will strive to be better than ever and responsive to division members. Every one of you is what makes our division great!

So, what is coming your way from YSD?

First, look for a callout to be part of the Kids Are Customers Too! 2025 planning committee. We are recruiting and our first committee meeting took place in September.

Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry is back this fall. It will be virtual from 9:30 am-1:00 pm EST on October 22. Graphic novels are the reading material, and *The Faint of Heart* author Kerilynn Wilson is the guest speaker.

YSD will also be taking applications to present at the KAC and MLA conferences taking place in the spring. Start thinking about your proposals and keep an eye out for application links this fall from the MLA Conference Committee and YSD.

Also, this fall, we will need candidates for the YSD Vice President/President Elect FY 2026 position. We have exceptional members who participate in a variety of YSD initiatives, from Blue Crab Young Readers Award Committee to planning KAC and BEST, and everything in between. Please consider running to fill next year's Vice President position. It is a very rewarding experience!

We welcome Jessica Letizia as the YSD Vice President and Mandy Davis and Luz Flores as the Blue Crab Committee Co-Chairs. All three are great leaders contributing to the advancement of youth services in many ways. We are lucky to have them!

Finally, don't forget self-care as we all transition from a busy summer to a busy school year. Do something special for yourself and remember to make and keep healthy work boundaries. Youth services is an ultra-marathon, not a sprint. Boundaries help us keep a steady pace, enable us to provide great service today, tomorrow, and into the future, and keep the joy alive.

Celebrate the adventure, friends!

Hope to see you soon at a YSD monthly meeting or other gathering. ■

MLA Sustainability Interest Group

Nicole Bega, St. Mary's County Library

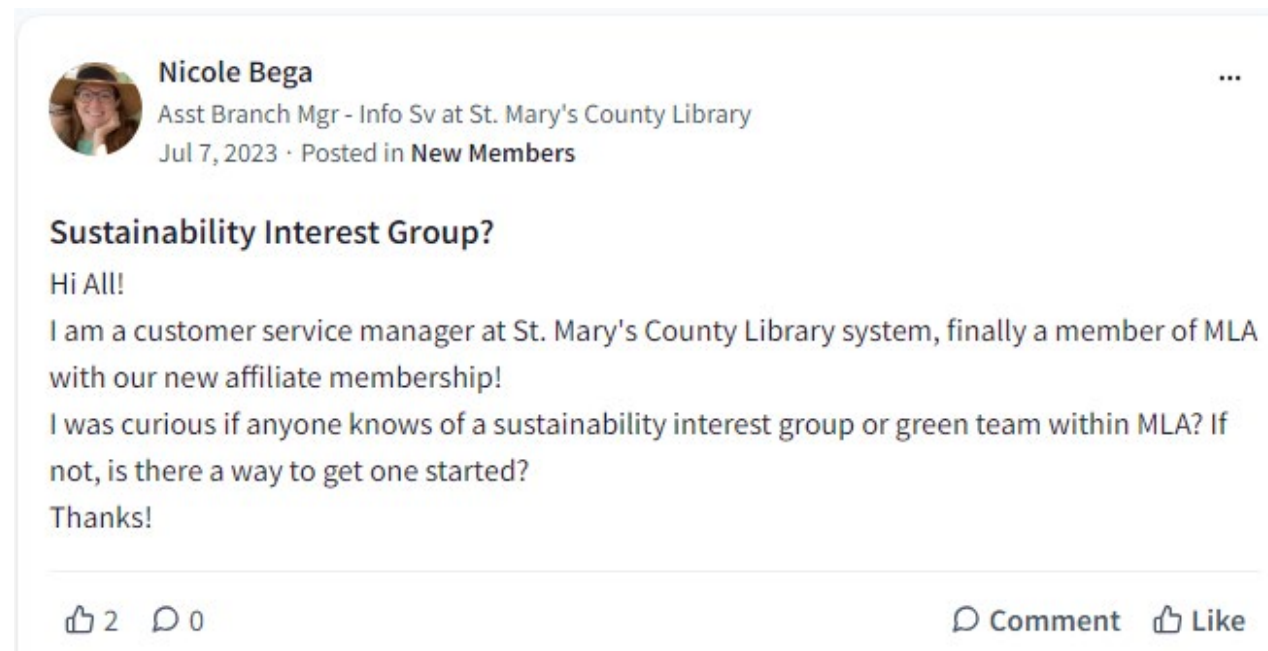
I am excited to announce the official launch of the Maryland Library Association's Sustainability Interest Group! This interest group will explore current and developing trends in sustainability initiatives; provide a resource-sharing hub to discuss ideas, experiences, and successes; and bring together the efforts of libraries across Maryland to live our values out loud and promote sustainability within the MLA!

Libraries are uniquely positioned to help our communities transition to a climate-conscious future: we educate, we provide space and opportunity for social gathering, and we protect those most vulnerable from climate extremes. Many of a library's core functions already reflect the ideals of a Triple Bottom Line (a framework that prioritizes social, environmental, and financial impacts equally). From our model of book-sharing to our never-ending quest to provide access for all, we aim for the socially equitable within the constraints of the economically feasible. Making our practices environmentally sound falls into alignment with the rest – there's no downside to cleaner air and water, food security, and healthier communities. Most (if not all) sustainable practices result in cost savings, social benefit, or both.

The American Library Association added **sustainability as a core value of librarianship** in May of 2019. In doing so, they set the stage for the rest of the nation to follow suit. Sustainability is important work, and libraries can leverage our community connections to bring this work and its benefits to more people. By making space for a Sustainability Interest Group within the MLA, we are providing a platform for this work to be carried out. We are providing

a vision for Maryland libraries to follow. We are providing a better future for everyone.

MLA members across the scope of librarianship—from circulation and programming to acquisitions and administration—are encouraged to join. A Sustainability Interest Group page will be coming to MLA Connect shortly. Stay tuned for an announcement of our first meeting. Questions? Feel free to email me at NBega@stmalib.org ■.



Getting started with MLA: Nicole's first inquiry about a sustainability interest group on MLA Connect in the summer of 2023.

Run for MLA Office!

2025

-

2026



Nominations currently open for:

- MLA Vice President/President Elect
- MLA Treasurer
- ACRL Vice President/President Elect
- ACRL Secretary
- YSD Vice President/President Elect
- YSD Secretary
- LDD Vice President/President Elect
- LDD Secretary
- ASRD Vice President/President Elect
- ASRD Secretary
- SSD Vice President/President Elect
- SSD Secretary
- Black Caucus Vice President/President Elect
- Black Caucus Secretary

**E-mail Nay Keppler, Nominations Chair, at
nkeppler@bcpl.net to nominate someone!
Self-nominations are accepted.**

Submissions accepted through October 30th.

Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference

Photographs courtesy of Leslie Greenly Smith, Harford County Public Library, and Amy Miller Meyers, Carroll County Public Library.

Turning the Tide, the 2024 Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Conference, took place from August 14 to 17, 2024, at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City. Featured events and networking opportunities included an exhibit booth trade show, a special one-day-only trade show of technology vendors, state agency briefings, regional county meetings, a Taste of Maryland reception, a crab feast, and more than 80 speakers from the public and private sectors. Maryland libraries were well-represented at the MACo Conference this year, as library workers from across the state took advantage of opportunities for continuing education, library advocacy, and developing new connections and partnerships.



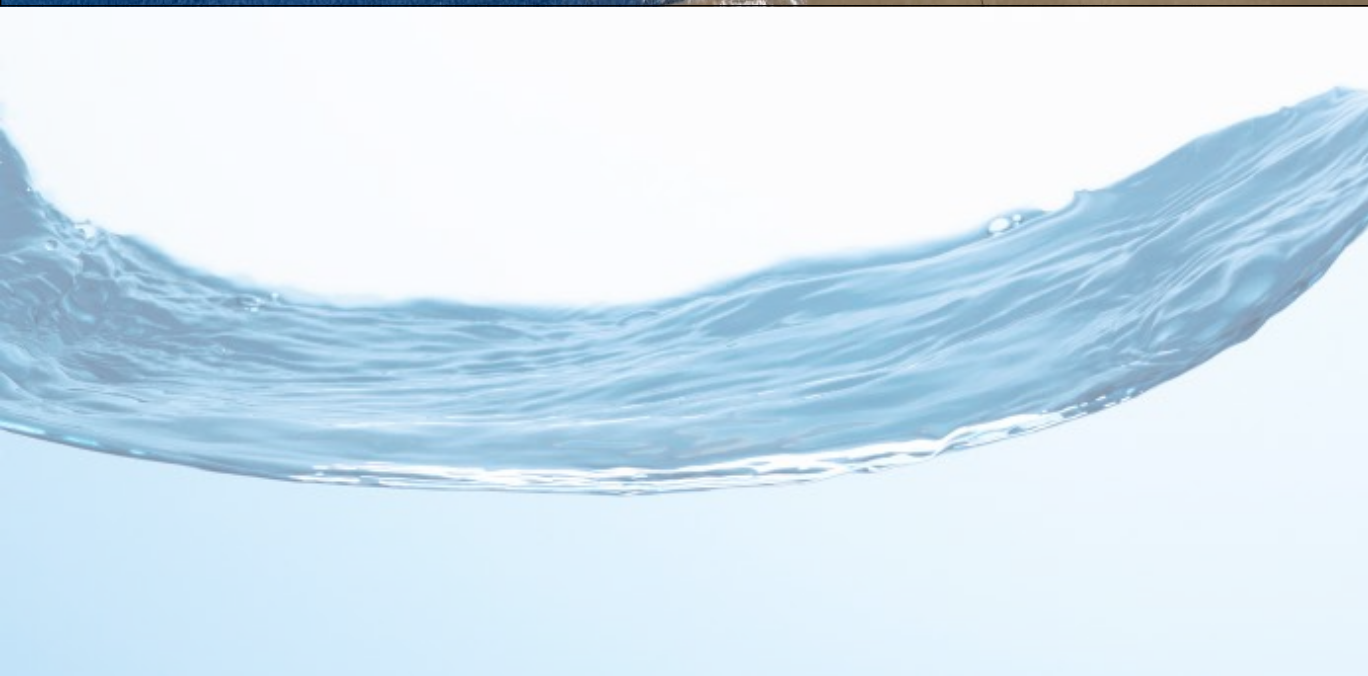
Save the date!

The MACo Winter Conference will take place December 11-13, 2024, in Cambridge and the next MACo Summer Conference will be held August 12-16, 2025, in Ocean City.

































SEEDS: New Seed Library Initiative

Megan Friend and Nicole Bega, St. Mary's County Library

The St. Mary's County Library is pleased to announce the launch of a new seed library initiative: SEEDS - Seed Endowment for Education, Discovery, and Sustainability! On April 1, 2024, after months of planning, we opened our Seed Library in the hopes of bringing our community together and helping address food insecurity in our area.

Now in our third season, we have reached over 500 patrons and distributed over 3,000 packets of seeds from a wide selection of fruits, veggies, herbs, native flowers and grasses, and nonnative flowers. We have hosted several gardening programs across our three locations, and even added a filter on our website calendar to make these programs more searchable. We are still working to streamline the process to reduce the staff time commitment for processing and packing all our seeds, but our community has been extraordinarily helpful in donating their time to help the cause.

We also have a lot of support from local environmental organizations, our local University of Maryland Extension, and even our local home and garden businesses. With the donations of seeds, time, and educational expertise, our program has flourished.

We hope to cultivate a flourishing network of gardeners, plant enthusiasts, and avid learners who are dedicated to the sharing of seeds and knowledge. We believe that gardening can play a huge role in saving money, creating community, developing valuable life skills, and generating access to healthy, fresh produce.

For more information, please visit [our website](#). ■

The seed library at the Leonardtown Branch of St. Mary's County Library. ◆

Megan Friend, Library Assistant at the Charlotte Hall Branch of St. Mary's County Library, with one of the seed donations from Lowe's. ■



SEEDS.

SEED ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION,
DISCOVERY, AND SUSTAINABILITY





Megan Friend, Library Assistant, St. Mary's County Library; Chrissy Ribaya, Store Manager, Lowe's; Ziggy Smith, Library Assistant, St. Mary's County Library; and Patrick Lawson, Store Manager, Lowe's.

The original seed library, which was expanded based on customer demand.



A Season of Creative Play

Bettina Wesloh, Baltimore County Public Library
Photographs courtesy of Bettina Wesloh.

AT THE START OF THE SUMMER, Baltimore County librarians brainstormed a list of programs that would foster active learning and creative play. Each librarian then selected a program from this list and designed an open-ended program that would engage toddlers, elementary age children, and their caregivers. We supplied the materials, striving to find items that caregivers would be able to easily find around their own homes.

Over the course of the summer, the Owings Mills Branch of Baltimore County Public Library hosted a Bubblepalooza, Paper Marbling, Animal Tracks, Cloud Dough, Sink or Float, Make Your Own Instruments, an Obstacle Course, a Mini Monster Truck Rally, and Bubble Wrap Painting. The programs ranged from very structured activities involving detailed planning and preparation to very free-form experiences with minimal instructions, allowing children and caregivers to explore materials at their own pace.

Animal Tracks, Cloud Dough, and Sink or Float were programs that involved a deeper level of planning and offered detailed instructions for participants to follow. The rest of the activities provided materials and general guidance, encouraging open-ended exploration and creativity.

Weather permitting, the programs were held outdoors, allowing participants to immerse themselves in messy, hands-on fun. This series was a resounding success, with attendance across all ages ranging from 45 to 123 people. ■





Creative Play



Creative Play!



Creative Play!

A Season of Creative Play!





Adult Summer Reading at Montgomery County Public Libraries

Laurie White, Montgomery County Public Libraries

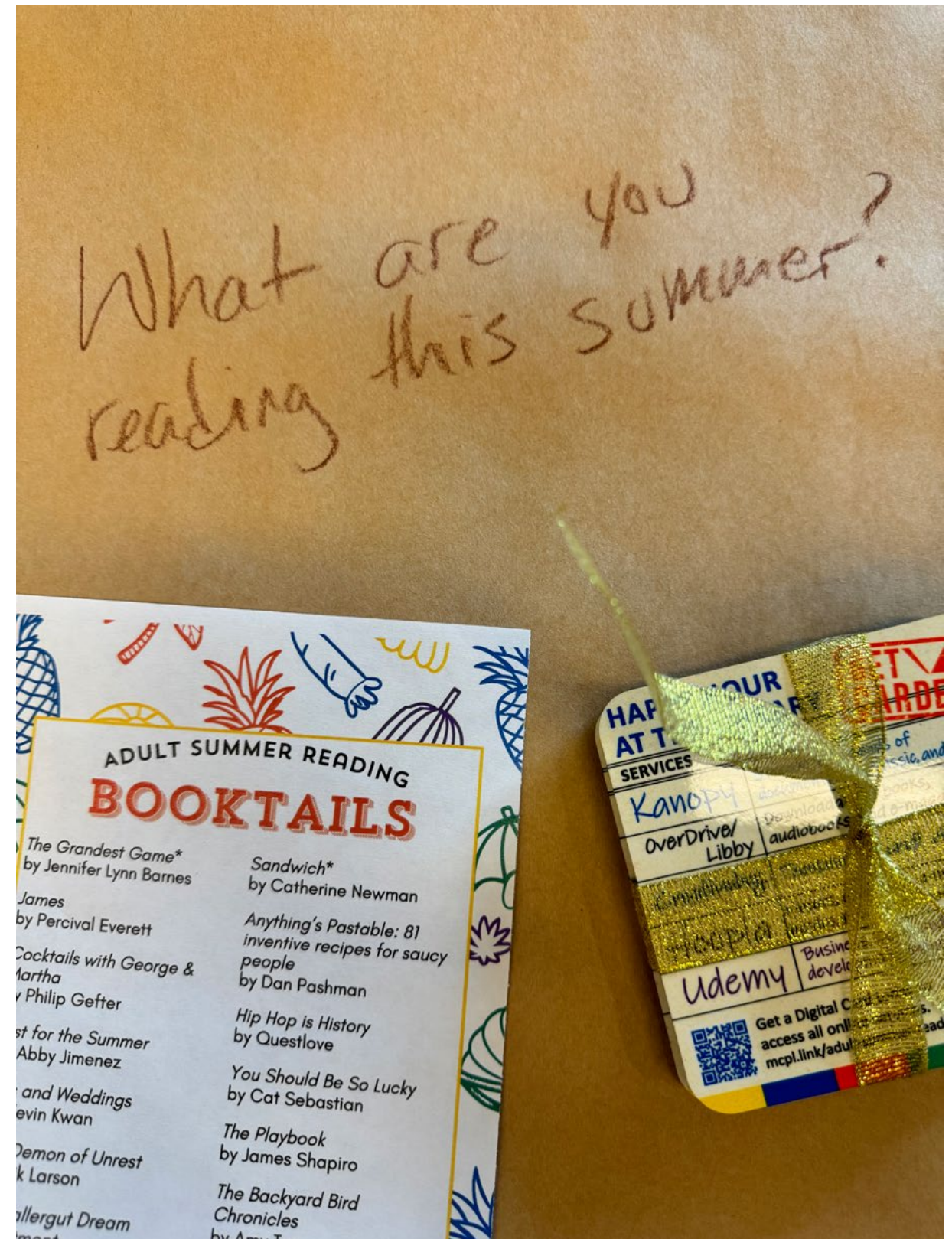
THE SUMMER OF 2024 marked the first year of the **Adult Summer Reading (ASR)** program at Montgomery County Public Libraries, with a focus on enriching library experiences and engaging with customers.

The ASR program committee organized five events at our branches and with community partners: Trivia Night at 7 Locks Brewery; Booktails: A Night of Mocktails and Books and Drag Bingo Night, both at our Gaithersburg branch; a craft table at the Good Hope Community Festival; and button making at the Silver Spring Farmers Market. Participants came alone or in groups, meeting up with fellow readers and library lovers, and enjoying summer book recommendations, entertainment, refreshments, and learning more about MCPL programs and services.

Adults registered through ReadSquared, earning virtual raffle tickets by attending events and completing reading challenges. Additional activities were available for those preferring to participate remotely. All participants were entered into a raffle drawing for three separate themed raffle baskets.

Registration for the first year of the Adult Summer Reading program surpassed our expectations, with 3,915 participants. Overall, we had about 17,000 registrants; that number includes early learners and teens as well! Response to the events and to the program was overwhelmingly positive, with after-hours events drawing crowds ranging from young to older adults, and a lengthy waiting list for Booktails.

We hope to expand this program next year, providing more activities in locations across Montgomery County.



Takeaways given out at the Booktails event.

“We hope to expand this program next year, providing more activities in locations across Montgomery County.”



◆ Adults gather at a local brewery to enjoy a night of trivia as part of the adult summer reading program.

◆ Attendees pose for a quick pic during the Booktails event.



Laurie White, Montgomery County Public Libraries

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES hosted our annual **Just for the Record-A Vinyl Day**, a celebration of all things records and DJ culture in Montgomery County and the DMV (DC Metro Area), at the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library in downtown Silver Spring on August 10.

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (FOLMC) held its popular vinyl sale, with enthusiasts browsing and buying when library doors opened at 10 a.m. By the time the event ended at 5 p.m., FOLMC had sold 990 records.

Vinyl Day 2024 featured keynote speaker DJ Johnny “Juice” Rosado, who wove stories of his life growing up in the Bronx with his personal and professional musical path and encyclopedic knowledge of hip-hop and music in general. Juice’s diverse skills as a composer, producer, turntablist, engineer, musician, B-boy, graffiti writer, educator, lecturer, and mentor have left an indelible mark on the culture, earning him an Emmy and an NAACP Image Award nomination. Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich came to the talk and also spoke, recognizing Juice’s accomplishments and the importance of hip-hop and music in

general to our local history and to advancing understanding and equality.

All floors of the library and the Levine Music space, which occupies a floor of the building, featured activities for all ages and the event was well attended, with over 700 patrons. Additionally, overall attendance for the day was close to 4,000!

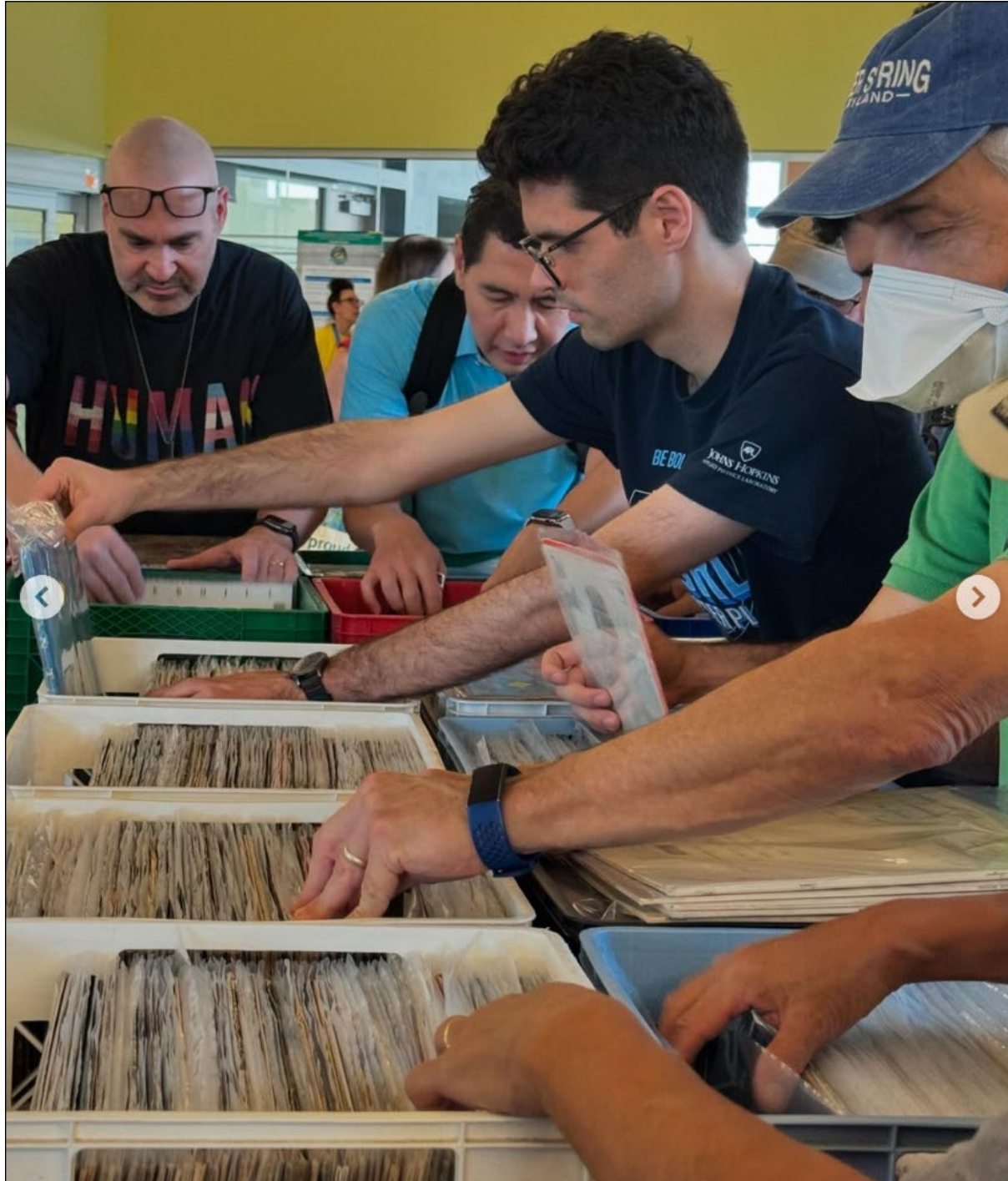
Programming included...

Open Format Lounge DJ Sets, DJ Basics for Kids, Children’s Storytime, DJ Basics for Teens and Adults, Make Your Own Album Cover, Songwriting Workshop, Kids Dance Party, Music Production Basics, Create Your Own Graffiti Tag, Scratch Basics, and Blending/Mixing/Stems Basics.

Vinyl Day was sponsored by and in collaboration with...

Radio One; Levine Music; Friends of the Library, Montgomery County; Classroom 2 Community; and the Mid-Atlantic Scratch League (MASL).

A VINYL DAY



◆ A DJ from the Mid-Atlantic Scratch League teaches a young attendee how to scratch on a turntable during one of the day's demonstrations.

◆ Attendees sift through crates of vinyl records old and new on sale during the event.



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Open a checking account with direct deposit* and you could earn:

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OPEN A 2-YEAR CERTIFICATE

Open a 2-year share certificate or IRA certificate with a \$10,000 minimum deposit** and you could earn:

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EXTRA CASH FOR YOU

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*Not all applicants will qualify for membership. Member must be 18 years or older and open a savings account with a \$10 deposit and open a checking account with a monthly direct deposit of at least \$300 that remains open for at least 60 days to qualify for the new member incentive. The new member incentive will be paid into the member's savings account after 90 days provided both the savings account and checking account remain open and meet the qualifications. The \$150.00 new member incentive will be reported as interest income on the Form 1099-INT year-end. Other terms limitations and conditions may apply. **New members must open a 2-year Share Certificate or IRA Certificate with a minimum balance \$10,000. The \$150 certificate incentive will be paid into the member's saving account. Members may qualify for both offers, earning up to \$300.00 in incentives. Offers are for new members only. Library of Congress FCU retains the right to cancel these offers at any time without notice.

OutRAIGeous Reviews

*Books recommended by members of
the Reader's Advisory Interest Group*

Cat + Gamer volumes 1-4, by Wataru Nadatani, translated by Zack
Davisson (Dark Horse Manga, 2022-2024)

Review by Carolyn Harnick

The first four volumes of this gentle, warmhearted manga introduce the adorable Musubi and his caretaker, Riko. At the office, Riko is something of an enigma to her co-workers—she comes in, does her work, and clocks out right on time, with no overtime! Her focus and commitment ensure that she has enough time to spend as her true self, a gamer. One day, Riko is a bit surprised to find herself taking care of a cat, and she takes a unique approach to this new challenge.

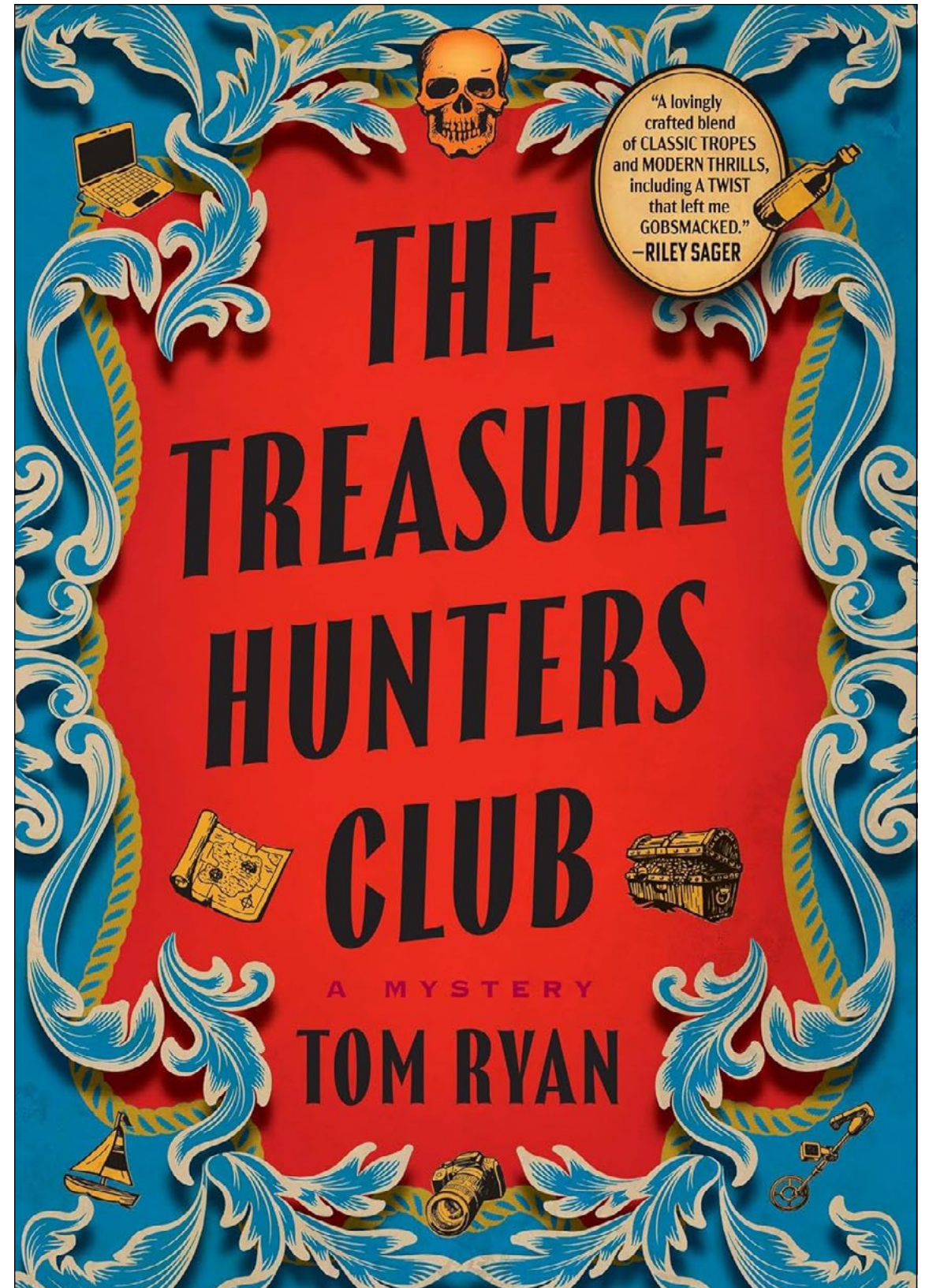
Told from the point of view of both Riko and Musubi, these volumes are refreshing and sweet, as the roommates learn about each other and navigate new levels. Cozy-manga for the whole family, these will appeal to fans of *What You Are Looking For Is in the Library* by Michiko Aoyama or Netflix's *The Way of the Househusband* (based on the manga series by Kousuke Oono) and *Kantaro: The Sweet Tooth Salaryman* (based on the manga series Saboriman Ametani Kantarou by Tensei Hagiwara and Abidi Inoue).



***The Treasure Hunters Club* by Tom Ryan (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2024)**

Review by Amy Jenkins

Who wouldn't want to find treasure? The idea was put forth in literature by Robert Louis Stevenson in his 1881 classic, *Treasure Island*. The key theme is adventure – not just any kind of adventure, but one chock-full of maps, pirates and X marks the spot. *The Treasure Hunters Club* by young adult author Tom Ryan is a modern twist on the theme. The plot follows the tales of five children in search of pirate treasure. In childhood, we have many adventures during play as we imagine journeys into the unknown and envision a world of possibilities. But...what would happen if you did find the treasure? The story, set in Maple Bay, Nova Scotia, unwinds and floats between the past and present. There is plenty of intrigue and mystery. Who are these childhood friends? Why are bodies piling up? If you are looking for a book that is a combination of *Treasure Island* meets *Pirates of the Caribbean* meets *Oak Island* meets *The Goonies*, this book is for you. Coming out October 15th!!



***Sylvia's Second Act* by Hillary Yablon (Pamela Dorman Books, 2024)**

Review by Amy Jenkins

The book is a wonderful romp. The story follows Sylvia and bestie Evie who are tired of the Florida heat, their boring retirement community and, for Sylvia, a cheating husband. In a moment of inspiration, the besties move from Boca Raton to new adventures in Manhattan. This book reminds me of *Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding—only this time, Bridget is a little more seasoned. Many, many times, I found myself laughing out loud! This is a perfect book for a reader looking for a light, fun read. It provides good reminders that age is just a number and that it's never too late to begin anew.





Maryland Library Association's Future of Libraries Interest Group

Conversations with the Future of Libraries Interest Group






Tracy Miller, Harford County Public Library

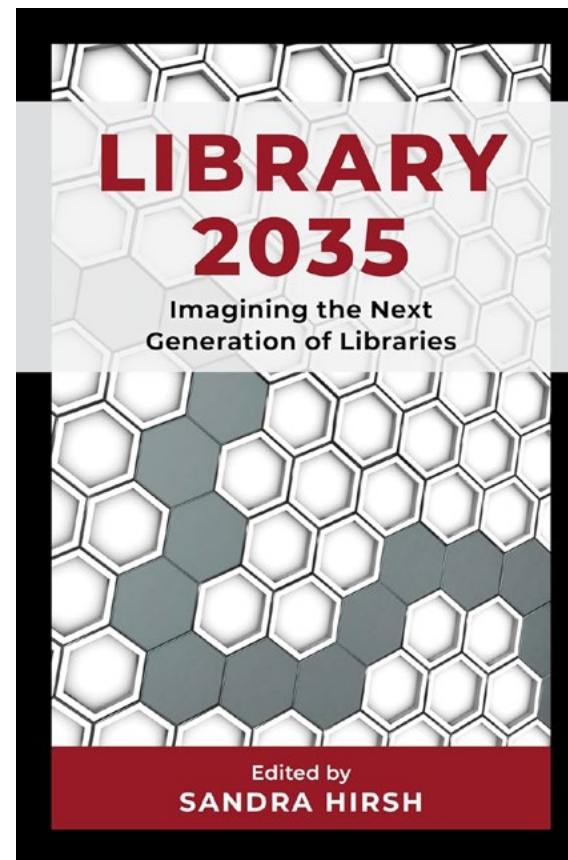
The Future of Libraries Interest Group meets monthly to discuss a variety of views of the future and how libraries may be impacted. We follow the STEEP format in our discussions; STEEP stands for Social, Technological, Economical, Environmental and Political. These categories are often used in strategic planning and futuring to ensure that all aspects of the future are considered. We found, though, that there is a lot of variability in interest among the different topics, and that assigning the topics to specific months made it difficult for participants to sign up to facilitate their preferred topic. So, we have decided to try out a new format for this upcoming year. We are allowing members to pick their topic and the month in which they would like to facilitate.

In order to provide some structure, we are choosing the categories for these conversation from one of two documents: [The Statewide Futures Blueprint from the Maryland Library Agency](#) or the book, [Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries](#).

The Statewide Futures Blueprint was created by the Maryland State Library Agency with library leaders from across the state. The Maryland State Library Network guided the project, which was created over several meetings with more than 50 representatives from across the Maryland library community. Its creation was facilitated by Miguel Figueroa, a futurist and former director for the Center for the Future of Libraries at the American Library Association.

There are six subject areas that the Blueprint focuses on:






-  Artificial Intelligence
-  Public & Civic Space
-  Safety, Violence & Mental Health
-  Sharing Materials & Resources
-  The Workplace, Workforce & Organizational Resources



Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries is a compilation of essays from library leaders on how they see the library evolving over the next ten years. From the publisher:

Library 2035 explores the lessons learned over the past decade and forecasts the opportunities, strengths, and challenges for libraries in the future. Contributors including R. David Lankes, Kelvin Watson, Annie Norman, Miguel Figueroa, and Nicole Cooke, along with 25 other library leaders, were asked to describe the “library of 2035” in whatever way they wanted.

This book is also divided into sections:

-  Landscape
-  Community
-  Equity & Inclusion
-  Organizations
-  Library Workers
-  Vision

The discussion this year promises to be exciting, and we think participants will get a lot out of it! If you would like to participate, look for invitations to our Zoom meetings on the first Monday of each month, announced on Marylib and on MLA Connect. We meet at 10 a.m. If you would like to facilitate a meeting, please consider signing up [here](#). ■



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel


Empowering Voices: A Call to Action for Creating Divisions and Interest Groups within MLA


William Wallace, Wicomico Public Library

In the rapidly evolving profession of librarianship, our needs and concerns are constantly shifting as new challenges and opportunities arise. As members of the Maryland Library Association (MLA), we each bring unique perspectives, skills, and passions that help shape the future of our libraries and the communities we serve. But are we doing enough to ensure that these diverse voices are being heard and acted upon?

Divisions and Interest Groups: A Platform for Change

One powerful way to amplify our voices and make tangible impacts is by developing Divisions and Interest Groups within MLA. These units allow members to organize around shared professional interests, advocate for change, and ensure that specific concerns are not only acknowledged but addressed.

 Divisions represent broad-based areas of concern in librarianship. Each division creates its own bylaws, elects officers, and conducts at least one professional development program annually, in addition to participating in the MLA Annual Conference. Divisions provide a long-term platform to advocate for specific areas of focus, from youth services to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). Divisions oversee Interest Groups, which focus on more specialized concerns.

 Interest Groups, overseen by Divisions, offer a more flexible and focused space for



members to explore particular professional challenges, share ideas, and develop innovative solutions. While not required to conduct as many programs as Divisions, Interest Groups are integral in providing a targeted platform for discussion and advocacy.

Why Divisions and Interest Groups Matter

By joining or forming a Division or Interest Group, you can connect with like-minded professionals, build relationships, and collectively influence MLA policy and initiatives. These groups are a direct line to leadership and decision-making within our association. Whether it is developing new professional development opportunities, building supportive networks, or tackling issues like censorship or accessibility, these groups provide the tools and platform to turn your ideas into action.

How You Can Get Involved





Starting a Division or Interest Group is straightforward and begins with a petition from interested members:

-  To establish a Division, you need a written petition signed by at least 10% of current MLA members and approval from the MLA Executive Board.
-  To create an Interest Group, a petition from 10 members and approval from the Executive Board is required.

Once formed, Divisions and Interest Groups are responsible for organizing meetings, fostering communication with members, and advocating for their collective interests. These groups provide an incredible opportunity for leadership, networking, and professional growth within the MLA.

Benefits of Joining or Starting a Division or Interest Group

Even if you don't want to start your own group, joining an existing Division or Interest Group has significant benefits:

-  **Networking:** Connect with librarians and library workers who share your interests and build valuable relationships.
-  **Advocacy:** Influence MLA policy and initiatives by representing your specific area of expertise.
-  **Professional Development:** Participate in tailored programs and workshops that align with your career goals.
-  **Leadership Opportunities:** Take on leadership roles and contribute to the growth of your group.

Let's Move MLA Forward—Together

Imagine the impact of your group bringing together professionals from across the state to tackle issues like combating censorship, increasing accessibility, or promoting innovative programming in underserved communities. The time is now to turn those conversations into action.

We encourage all MLA members to consider joining or forming a Division or Interest Group. Your involvement will help strengthen our association and ensure that the needs and concerns of all librarians are represented.

For more information or to discuss your ideas, please contact William Wallace, wwallace@wicomico.org, or Conni Strittmatter, cstrittmatter@bcpl.net.

Together, we can ensure that MLA not only reflects the diversity of its membership but is also equipped to address the complex and pressing issues we face. Let's work together to create a stronger, more inclusive Maryland Library Association! ■



Want to get more involved with MLA? Check out some of Divisions, Committees, and Interest Groups!

Caucus

Black Caucus Of The Maryland Library Association

Divisions

Adult Services and Reference Division

Association Of College And Research Libraries, MD

Leadership Development Division

Support Staff Division

Youth Services Division

Committees and Panels

Intellectual Freedom Panel

Legislative Panel

Professional Development Panel

Marketing Committee

Maryland Author Award

Interest Groups

Emerging Adults Interest Group

Future Of Libraries Interest Group

LGBTQ+ Interest Group

Library Advocacy Interest Group

Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group

Materials Interest Group

Outreach Services Interest Group

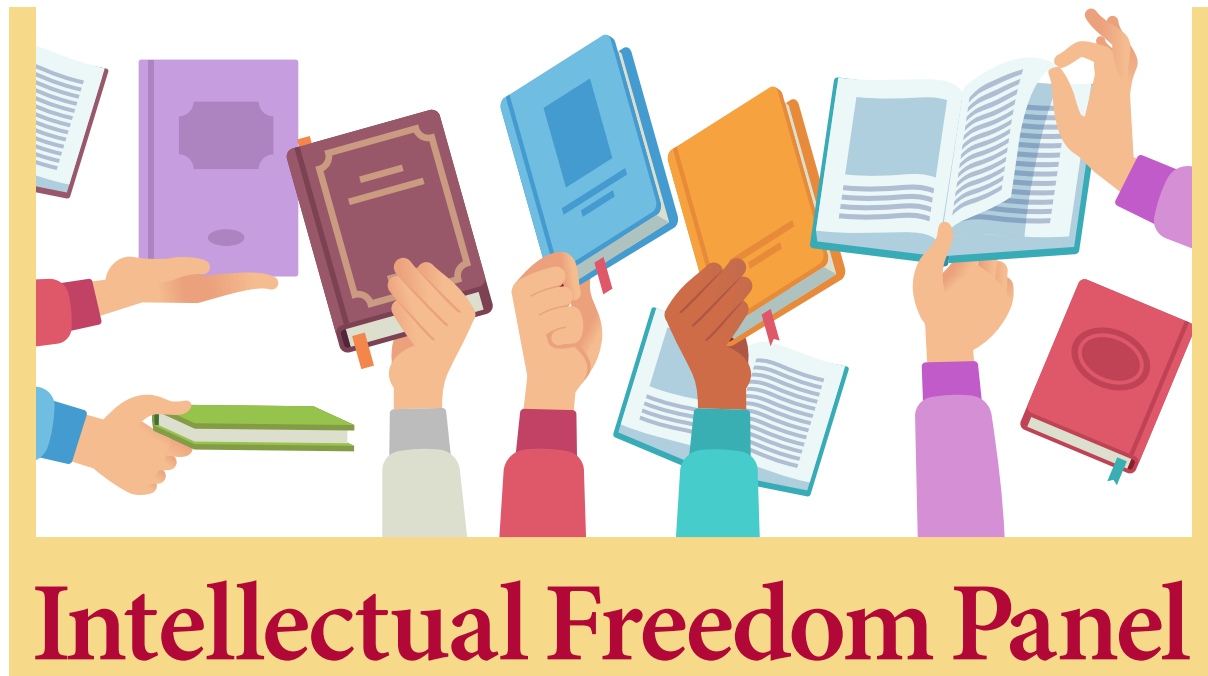
Readers' Advisory Interest Group

Technical Services Interest Group

Teen Interest Group

With your MLA membership, you can join new Divisions, Committees, and Interest Groups at any time on the MLA Website or by emailing mla@mdlib.org!





Lloyd Jansen, Charles County Public Library

Upcoming Activities

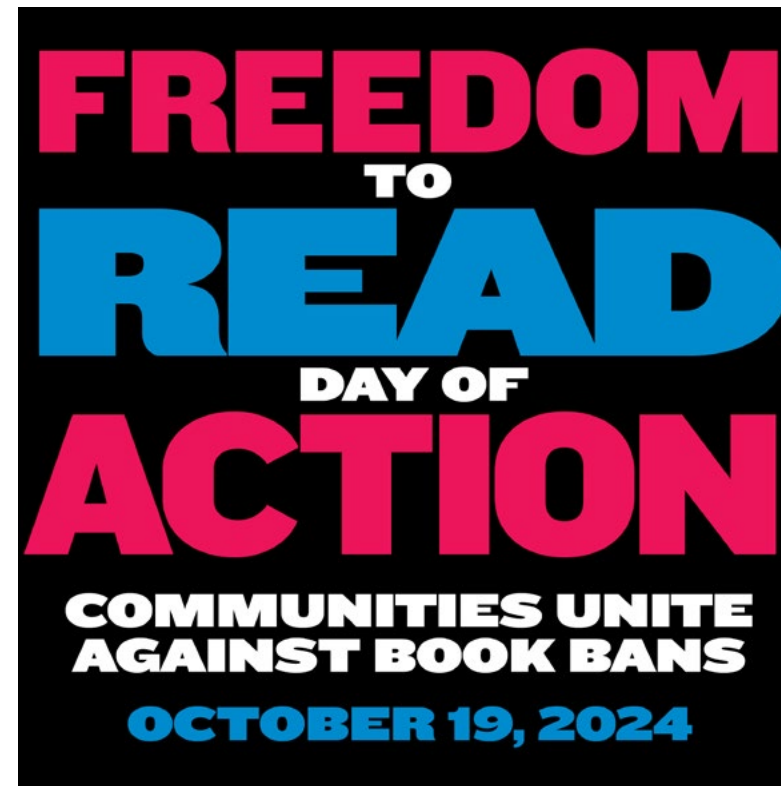
The Intellectual Freedom Panel is working on a slate of ideas for the year. While it's too early to provide many details, planning is underway for a series of virtual discussion programs called *Defending Our Practice*, a broader successor to last year's *Defending Our Collections* series. Stay tuned for more information about these events.

News

The Wicomico Public Library and Salisbury University sponsored events for Banned Books Week (September 22-28). On Thursday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m., a panel of children's book authors were part of the webinar *The Disappearing Bookshelf: Why You Should Write Kidlit in the Era of Book Challenges*, followed by two in-person events on September 28: a Write Your Truth writing workshop (1:00 p.m. at the Paul S. Sarbanes branch) and a Read Your Truth open-mic event (3:30 p.m. at Unity Square in Salisbury.)

Unite Against Book Bans, along with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, Brooklyn Public Library, The New York Public Library, and Queens Public Library, are organizing [The Freedom to Read Community Day of Action](#) on October 19. 📖

IFP member Mou Chakraborty recommends a new book that *Crab* readers might be interested in: [School Moms: Parent Activism, Partisan Politics and the Battle for Public Education](#) by Laura Pappano. Pappano looks at the extremist challenges facing public schools as well



as groups like Red, Wine & Blue who are organizing to counter those attacks. There have been plenty of challenges to school libraries in Maryland, so the subject is sadly relevant here.

And finally, this story has been making the rounds, but if you haven't heard about a Granbury, Texas police officer's two-year campaign to arrest school librarians for doing their job, then [this NBC News story](#) is worth a look. Did this officer not have anything else better to do with his time or more appropriate ways to spend taxpayer money?

Thank you, our Maryland library community, for your continuing efforts to support the freedom to read! ■



Materials Interest Group

So, You Want an Advanced Reader Copy...?

Laura Bandoch, Harford County Public Library

Is there any item which tickles a library worker more than an Advanced Reader Copy? Also known as an ARC or galley, these items can be obtained in a traditional print form or a digital form. An ARC is a free copy of a book given out by publishers prior to mass publication. Industry professionals including booksellers, librarians, and journalists receive these ARCs for review and promotional purposes. In the library world, these books end up in Collection Development offices by the box-full—but what if you don't work in this central office?


Don't worry! There are plenty of ways to get books before the publication date. As a library worker, reading books ahead of the release date allows you to book talk these titles to customers with gusto, leading to increased holds and circulation. It also allows you to see publishing trends ahead of actual publication, which helps you maintain your collection. So, how do you get your hands on these precious items?


The quickest and easiest way is to read these review copies digitally. They are available through Edelweiss or NetGalley. Edelweiss is a website on which publishers publish catalogs and other book information for industry professionals. NetGalley is a website that was created specifically to publish digital galleys in lieu of the traditional paper galley. It is free


to create an account on both sites. Once you have registered, you can browse the platform or search for specific titles. Some titles are available for immediate digital download. For others, you must request a copy from the publisher and wait for their response. Either way, once you download, you are free to read the galley on your preferred device.


If you want a physical ARC, there are still plenty of avenues for you to explore. Here is a list:

Goodreads: Browse the list of giveaways on Goodreads, found under the Browse tab. There are often many people trying to win a limited number of copies, but the ability to filter based on your preferences makes it an easy-to-use tool.

 **Shelf Awareness Pro:** This is an e-newsletter that gives information to booksellers and librarians and appears in your inbox daily. There are often multiple books featured that lead to a link to request a physical ARC to be sent to your preferred address.

 **Publishers Weekly (PW):** There are many newsletters to subscribe to from Publishers Weekly, but perhaps the most useful is PW Daily Newsletter. Not only will you receive useful book industry information, but every so often PW will also sponsor a Grab-a-Galley, usually around a major conference such as ALA.

 **Publisher Newsletters:** Publishers also send out newsletters themselves which may offer ARCs, either through an embedded link in an email or via listing a specific email address to which a request with specific titles must be sent.

 **Conferences:** Major annual conferences such as those of the American Library Association or the Public Library Association are often flooded with physical ARCs, which is often a highlight of attending!

By using these tips, you will soon find yourself inundated with titles that have yet to be published! If you do end up reading these Advanced Reader Copies, please be sure to drop a review on Goodreads, Amazon, or Edelweiss (or all three!). The purpose of ARCs is to promote the book, and your submissions help generate internet buzz. Also of note: ARCs cannot be sold, so if you're done with the physical copies, they are good for Little Free Libraries, program giveaways, or craft projects.

If you are interested in talking about collection development, publication trends, or other topics surrounding the materials in our libraries, please feel free to attend the Materials Interest Group, which meets virtually via Zoom every other month. Email bandoch@hcplonline.org if you would like more information. ■



ASSOCIATION of COLLEGE and RESEARCH LIBRARIES, MD

ACRL-MD Hosts Tour of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library at the Maryland Center for History and Culture

Kate Strain, Loyola Notre Dame Library

In July 2024, ACRL-MD continued its Summer Tour Series with a visit to the H. Furlong Baldwin Library at the Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC). Building on the success of the previous two years which featured tours of the Library of Congress, this year's event brought together twenty librarians from across Maryland, representing academic libraries, public libraries, and museums.

Hosted by the Baldwin Library's director Dr. Martina Kado and her staff of librarians, the tour provided a focused look at the library's collections which highlight Maryland's rich cultural heritage. Attendees explored unique artifacts from the state's earliest history, materials related to Maryland's history of slavery, and other unique photographs, documents, and pieces from the collection. Additionally, the group had the opportunity to view the

"Material & Memories: Elizabeth Talford Scott and the Crazy Quilt Tradition" exhibit.

Feedback from attendees emphasized the value of this educational experience, and how it inspired new ideas for research and collaboration. The tour also served as a networking opportunity enhanced by a shared lunch at a local café in the historic Mount Vernon district.

ACRL-MD is grateful to the MCHC for their generous hospitality and the opportunity to learn more about the preservation of Maryland's cultural heritage. ■

ACRL-MD

Fall 2024 Meeting Schedule

OCT 17

NOV 21

DEC 19

All meetings are 11-12, with an open Executive Board meeting immediately following.

Join us at bit.ly/ACRLMD_2024

EA Library Worker Story, EA Spotlight and EA Book Recommendation



*Stephanie Wiant, Young Adults Workforce Services,
Frederick County Government*

Emerging adults (EAs)—individuals ranging in age from 18 to 29—have been traditionally overlooked as potential library users. However, library workers across the state are eagerly taking on the challenge of meeting the needs of this unique customer base. Here are the thoughts of a library worker serving emerging adults and a current library customer.

Emerging Adult Library Worker Story

*Nanna Bailey, Public Services Associate at the
Centreville Branch of Queen Anne's County
Library*



What were your dreams in high school?

For the past 15 years I have lived on the eastern shore of Maryland, but I grew up in Denmark and that is where I went to high school. One of my dreams was to work at Danish Embassies around the world so I would be able to travel and see the world. Denmark is the size of Maryland, and I wanted to get out and experience the world.

Did you take a traditional path to college or start working?

In Denmark, many young people take time off to work and travel between high school and college and I did that too. After I graduated high school, I worked for six months before travelling to Spain. I ended up living in Spain for two years before I came back to Denmark to study. I studied Spanish for a while, but after another year of working, I decided to study English Business Communication and European Studies as my plan was to work for the European Union in Brussels. However, when studying in Ireland for a semester I met my American husband and that is how I eventually ended up here in Maryland.

Did you go to the library during your EA years?

During my emerging adult years, I went to my college library for resources and used it as a place to study. Being busy with my studies, work, and friends, I never really went

to the public library.

What is one program or service that the library offers now that you could have benefited from during your EA years?

I wish I had gone to the public library during my emerging adult years to read for pleasure. I think I would have benefited, especially from reading graphic novels that dealt with different subjects emerging adults might go through as they are trying to figure

out who they are.

What is one library program or service you envision that could enhance the experience of EAs in the library?

My library was awarded an LSTA grant to work with the Queen Anne's County Detention Center to update their library. Through that work, it has become clear that when you offer people access to resources—in this case new books—they see new options and possibilities. For EAs who have been incarcerated or have something on their record, I imagine offering a program where they would get help to write their resume and prepare for a job interview with a specific focus on how to deal with their record in these two situations. At the same time, this would be a great opportunity to show the EAs all the other free resources we offer at the library. ■

**emerging adult
book of the month**

Out on a Limb
by **Hannah Bonam-Young**

A one-night stand—and an unexpected pregnancy—lead a young woman to someone she can depend on in this contemporary new adult romance. Lead characters Win and Bo decide to get to know one another as friends and nothing more while they embark on their parenting journey together. But, as they both should know by now, life rarely goes according to plan.

EAIG
Emerging Adult Interest Group

Emerging Adult Spotlight
*Paige Marley, Frederick County
Public Library customer*

When did you start using the library?

I started using the library when I was in kindergarten. I loved getting to explore my local library and look at all the books! The library I went to when I was younger also had a foam play area where you could socialize with other children, so that made going even more exciting for me. I remember also being obsessed with the Bookmobile whenever it would come to my school; it was always the highlight of my week!



What do you enjoy most about the library?

I enjoy just about everything that our libraries have to offer; there's something so calming about libraries in general. I like searching for the perfect book and sitting down to read the first chapter before checking it out. I also love getting to chat with the librarians and other staff who work there. They're always so kind and helpful.

What genre do you enjoy the most?

My favorite genre actually just changed; I'm now a huge fan of fantasy novels. I especially enjoy them if they have hints of romance and suspense. My partner's sister introduced me to the genre, and I was immediately hooked. My current favorites are the Folk of the Air series by Holly Black and the Caraval series by Stephanie Garber. I'm also always a fan of something with a dystopian vibe; the Uglies series by Scott Westerfeld and the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins were my first two dystopian obsessions. ■



Night Sky Notes: Catch Andromeda Rising!

Originally posted by Dave Prosper: September 2021

Updated by Kat Troche: September 2024

If you're thinking of a galaxy, the image in your head is probably the Andromeda Galaxy! Studies of this massive neighboring galaxy, also called M31, have played an incredibly important role in shaping modern astronomy. As a bonus for stargazers, the Andromeda Galaxy is also a beautiful sight.

Have you heard that all the stars you see at night are part of our Milky Way galaxy? While that is mostly true, one star-like object located near the border between the constellations of Andromeda and Cassiopeia appears fuzzy to unaided eyes. That is because it is not a star, but the Andromeda Galaxy, its trillion stars appearing to our eyes as a 3.4 magnitude patch of haze. Why so dim? Distance! It is outside our galaxy, around 2.5 million light years distant - so far away that the light you see left M31's stars when our earliest ancestors figured out stone tools. Binoculars show more detail: M31's bright core stands out, along with a bit of its wispy, saucer-shaped disc. Telescopes bring out greater detail but often cannot view the entire galaxy at once. Depending on the quality of your skies and your magnification, you may be able to make out individual globular clusters, structure, and at least two of its orbiting dwarf galaxies: M110 and M32. Light pollution and thin clouds, smoke, or haze will severely hamper observing fainter detail, as they will for any "faint fuzzy." Surprisingly, persistent stargazers can still spot M31's core from areas of moderate light pollution as long as skies are otherwise clear.

Modern astronomy was greatly **shaped by studies of the Andromeda Galaxy**. A hundred years ago, the idea that there were other galaxies beside our own was not widely accepted, and so M31 was called the "Andromeda Nebula." Increasingly detailed observations of M31 caused astronomers to question its place in our universe – was M31 its own "island universe," and not part of our Milky Way? Harlow Shapley and Heber Curtis engaged in the "Great Debate" of 1920 over its nature. Curtis argued forcefully from his observations of dimmer than expected nova, dust lanes, and other oddities that the "nebula" was in fact an entirely different galaxy from our own. A few years later, Edwin Hubble, building



Spot the Andromeda Galaxy! M31's more common name comes from its parent constellation, which becomes prominent as autumn arrives in the Northern Hemisphere. Surprising amounts of detail can be observed with unaided eyes when seen from dark sky sites. Hints of it can even be made out from light polluted areas. Use the Great Square of Pegasus or the Cassiopeia constellation as guides to find it. Credit: Stellarium Web.

on Henrietta Leavitt's work on Cepheid variable stars as a "standard candle" for distance measurement, concluded that M31 was indeed another galaxy after he observed Cepheids in photos of Andromeda, and estimated M31's distance as far outside our galaxy's boundaries. And so, the Andromeda Nebula became known as the Andromeda Galaxy.

These discoveries inspire astronomers to this day, who continue to observe M31 and many other galaxies for hints about the nature of our universe. One of the Hubble Space Telescope's longest-running observing campaigns was a study of M31: the Panchromatic Hubble Andromeda Treasury (PHAT). Dig into NASA's latest discoveries about the Andromeda Galaxy, on their [Messier 31 page](#). ■

This article is distributed by NASA's Night Sky Network (NSN).

The NSN program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov to find local clubs, events, and more!

While M31's disc appears larger than you might expect (about 3 Moon widths wide), its "galactic halo" of scattered stars and gas is much, much larger—as you can see here. ◀

In fact, it is suspected that its halo is so huge that it may already mingle with our Milky Way's own halo, which makes sense since our galaxies are expected to merge sometime in the next few billion years! The dots are quasars, objects located behind the halo, which are the very energetic cores of distant galaxies powered by black holes at their center. The Hubble team studied the composition of M31's halo by measuring how the quasars' light was absorbed by the halo's material. Credits: NASA, ESA, and E. Wheatley (Space Telescope Science Institute).



Generated version of the Andromeda Galaxy and its companion galaxies M32 and M110. Credit: Stellarium Web.



Shannon Carney, Baltimore County Public Library

About Shannon's job and MLA responsibilities

What is your job title/employer? Professional history in libraries?

Work responsibilities/special projects/initiatives?

I am a librarian for the Catonsville branch of Baltimore County Public Library. I started in circulation here at Catonsville in 2017, worked my way up and became a librarian at the Woodlawn branch, and now I'm back at Catonsville! I helped reopen the branch after a year-and-a-half-long renovation, which was quite an experience.

What work have you done within MLA and what are your hopes and goals for your interest group in the upcoming year? What are you most excited about? How can the MLA community support you in achieving your goals?

I'm relatively new to MLA. After attending a few LGBTQ+ Interest group meetings I dove in to help co-chair the group. We're still finding our feet as a group but have a great set of core people who are enthusiastic and dedicated. My hope is that in the future we can grow our group's membership and integrate ourselves further into MLA. I'd love for us to put out some trainings for library workers on how to help the LGBTQ+ community.

How are you involved in the wider community?

MLA is my first foray into the larger library community. I'm enjoying the opportunity to meet people from other systems and see how other libraries do things. I've definitely borrowed ideas.

What is it about libraries that inspires or motivates you?

Seeing the good that we do for people is one of the most rewarding things. I've had jobs where I don't feel like I'm really making a difference in the world, and it feels hollow. In libraries I get to make small impacts every day and have often seen them pay off. I remember helping a reluctant reader find a book to read when she could not have cared less. She came



back with her mom a month or so later and they were excited to find more books and keep reading! What can be better than being a part of that?

About Shannon

Favorite movie, TV show, or play?

I've seen *Hadestown* four times (three times on Broadway). I think it's become my favorite by default because I will say 'yes' anytime someone asks me to see it. The music is incredible, the set is beautiful, and they tell a familiar story in a really riveting way. Go see it if you ever get the chance.

Favorite sport and/or sports team?

I love curling! I have been a member of the Potomac Curling Club and an avid curler since 2014. I'm also the chair of my club's DEIA committee. I could talk your ear off about it so feel free to ask me any questions—or try a learn-to-curl at our club!

Do you have pets? What kind?

I have a grey cat named Batman. His name started as a joke; we thought it would be funny to say things like “Batman is on the counter again! Batman coughed up a hairball,” and the name stuck. The joke is on me, though, because my daughter loves our cat so much her first word was Batman.

What book is currently on your nightstand?

I just finished an ARC of *Coup de Grâce* by Sofia Ajram. It was this incredible horror novel about a man trapped in a desolate, endless subway station. It’s beautiful and terrifying and a wonderful allegory for mental health struggles.

Do you read more than one book at a time?

I used to be a one book at a time person. I don’t know what happened, but a switch flipped somewhere along the line and now I’ll usually read three or four at a time: one on my lunch breaks at work, one or two at home, and an audio book while I’m driving or playing video games.

What is your hidden talent or an unusual fact about you?

I have an abnormal amount of control over my facial muscles. I can wiggle my nose and ears. I also can balloon out my neck like a frog (ask me to show you sometime). I’m not sure how I discovered that one, but it’s something I’ve been able to do for as long as I remember. ■

Paula Mitchell, Enoch Pratt Free Library and State Library Resource Center

About Paula’s job and MLA responsibilities

What is your job title/employer?

Operations Manager for the Collections & Access Services Division at Enoch Pratt Free Library and State Library Resource Center (SLRC).

Professional history in libraries?

I have had the pleasure of working in Maryland libraries for about 12 years (wow, time flies!) in various capacities, starting in Wicomico County as a Volunteer Coordinator and later advancing to Program and Events Manager for the system. I relocated to Baltimore City in 2017 and began working at Pratt/SLRC as a project manager for the Collections & Access Services Division. Over the years, my role has expanded to provide direct management support to resource delivery teams and oversight of various systemwide and statewide projects.

Work responsibilities/special projects/initiatives?

I have been very fortunate to work on so many unique projects over the years! Some highlights include working with the Friends of Wicomico Public Libraries to open their bookstore, coordinating Wicomico Public Library (WPL) fundraising events like the Light of Literacy Awards, and working with volunteers and the WPL youth services team to establish a Homework Help Center.



Shamelessly promoting the Bi-annual Book Sale at Wicomico Public Library.

At Pratt, I co-coordinated the reorganization and relocation of SLRC/Central's massive physical collections during the library's renovation. With the support of state partners and the amazing team at the Maryland Interlibrary Loan Organization, I coordinated a safe and sustainable relaunch of the statewide delivery network during COVID-19. I also worked with teams in Collections and Access Services Division and SLRC to revamp SLRC Conferences to increase equity in support staff professional development opportunities, accessibility, relevance, and, frankly, to just have some more fun!



Pictures from Paula's tenure as Program Manager at Wicomico Public Library.

What work have you done within MLA, and what are your hopes and goals for your committee in the upcoming year? What are you most excited about? How can the MLA community support you in achieving your goals?

This is my second year as an active member of MLA. I have attended, presented, and volunteered for MLA/DLA Conferences but never took the leap to be a fully active member. Chelsea and Anita lured me in with promises of the return of a conference with an ocean view and a larger event venue! "Think of all the possibilities," they said...I couldn't resist! As this year's MLA/DLA Conference Co-Chair, I could use the MLA community's support to convince Chelsea, Josh, and Teonja that Hypercolor conference t-shirts are a fantastic idea!



What is it about libraries that inspires or motivates you?

There is A LOT to love about libraries of all types. However, the mission and work of public libraries across Maryland and the U.S. are inspiring. It's the only public institution that is genuinely representative of humanity. Libraries do this incredible thing by striving to meet everyone precisely where they are, yet they also can take individuals wherever they want to go. I am personally moved by the compassionate work of library staff at all levels. I am motivated every day to make a difference in the lives of library staff, and I try my best to meet them exactly where they are and help them rise to wherever they want to go. I see staff do this dozens of times a day for the public they serve, and I feel called to

reciprocate this fantastic effort!

About Paula

What was your first job?

I was a cannoli filler at Patsy's Italian Pastry Shop in East Somerville, Massachusetts. I did a terrible job and was fired on my first day by the same baker who made all my childhood birthday cakes. It was devastating.

Do you have pets? What kind?

Yes, a gray cat named Chibi.

What book is currently on your nightstand?

The Truth Is We Are Perfect, Janaka Stucky.

What is a book you've read that changed how you think about a topic or about your life?

Working The Roots, Michele E. Lee.

What is something that you think would surprise someone about you or your job?

I think most people would be surprised to discover that behind the buoyant personality and fanciful frocks lies a logistics maven! Throughout the years, I have established an expertise in supporting library operations, specifically navigating complex, multifaceted projects. I adore working with teams to find a path forward. Feeling stuck? Give me a call!

What is your hidden talent or an unusual fact about you?

I eventually redeemed myself and improved my cannoli-filling skills by becoming a classically trained chef. ■



Left to right: 2025 MLA Conference Director Chelsea Shockley, 2024 MLA Conference Director Anita Crawford, and 2025 MLA Conference Co-Chair Paula Mitchell.

Paula describes this as “the exact moment at MLA/DLA 2023 when Chelsea and Anita guilted me into supporting MLA more actively.”



◆ Paula's cat, Chibi.

Some of Paula's delicious
and exquisite creations.



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the Crab

the Crab is published quarterly to inform MLA members about events, news and activities of interest to the Maryland library community. Subscriptions are \$15 per year (4 issues). For subscription or advertising information, change of address, or extra issues, call the MLA office at 410-947-5090.

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Questions about MLA membership should be directed to the MLA office at mla@mdlib.org. Please address all other *Crabby* correspondence to: julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org.

Deadlines for submissions

Fall Issue: September 5

Winter Issue: December 5

Spring Issue: March 5

Summer Issue: June 5

Crab Editors

Julie Fitzpatrick, Editor

Howard County Library System, 410-313-1950

Regina Rose, Copy Editor

Amy L. Miller Meyers, Copy Editor

Carroll County Public Library, 410-386-4490

Robert Miller, Copy Editor

University of Maryland Global Campus Library

Michaela Boyle, Copy Editor

Art Director and production staff

Bucky Edgett, Lucky Productions,

Westminster MD 21158; 410-346-6925; luckypro.biz

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