

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE

# THE HAPPENINGS



## LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF Reflecting on a Historic Year

As we close out another year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements we've made together and express our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support of the Maryland Library Association.

We began the year with a powerful Legislative Day, where MLA members came together in Annapolis to advocate for our libraries and the vital role they play in our communities.

In May, we gathered for the MLA | DLA Annual Conference in Cambridge, Maryland which brought together nearly 600 library professionals from across Delaware and Maryland.

Throughout the year, we hosted 13 professional development events, providing valuable opportunities to share resources, best practices, and innovations in the library profession.

## This Issue

- Letter from MLA
- Upcoming Programs
- Conference Announcement
- December & January Meetings

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to unveil a new website, designed to make it easier to find professional development opportunities and resources, manage your membership, and connect with your fellow MLA members.

As the holiday season approaches, we hope you find rest and joy in the company of friends, family, and colleagues. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and passionate community of library professionals here in Maryland. Thank you for all you do for our libraries, our profession, and the people we serve.

Wishing you a peaceful and joyful holiday season, and we look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2025.

Warm regards,

**Joshua Stone, Kate Monagan  
& Danielle Voelker**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIVISION PRESENTS:

**Psychologically Safe Leadership**

**Thursday, February 20, 2025 |**

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

*Online via Zoom.*

***[Register on mdlib.org.](https://mdlib.org)***

Workplace safety is more than just physically ensuring the well-being of your staff. A psychologically safe leader looks to “prevent psychological harm, promote psychological health of workers, and address problems related to psychological health and safety.”

Bringing this process to Maryland Libraries is not easy. By defining a psychologically safe leader and identifying the harmful myths preventing psychological safety, all library leaders can learn to build a healthier workplace.

This will put us in a safer position to better promote mental health within our library community.

All levels of library leadership can benefit from developing this competency and contributing to a future of psychologically safe workplaces.

**Program Pricing:**

**Members:** \$12.50

**Non-members:** \$18.75

**Student, Retired, Unemployed, or Friend:** \$6.25

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**MLA | DLA Annual Conference**

**May 7-9, 2025**

*Ocean City, Maryland*

**Early Bird Registration will begin in early January!**

Keep an eye on your inbox for a registration announcement soon.

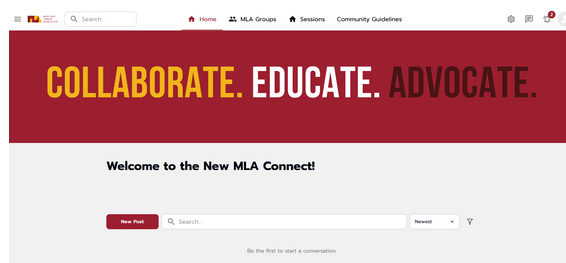
**SNEAK A PEEK:**

**The New MLA Website & Connect**

Check out a sneak peek of the new MLA website, launching in January 2025!



We are also rolling out a new MLA Connect, where you can host group meetings, engage in discussions, and more.



YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:

## Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry (BEST) 2025—The Spring Edition

Thursday, March 6, 2025 |  
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

[Register on mdlib.org](https://mdlib.org).

**Love talking about books?** Join us for BEST 2025—The Spring Edition, a celebration of Children's and Teen Fiction. Learn about the Black-Eyed Susan Award and participate, via Zoom, in a half day of small group discussions of some of the 2023-2024 Juvenile and Teen Fiction nominees.

Program check-in begins at 9:25 a.m., and the program will start at 9:30 a.m. There will be two discussion groups, meeting twice, so you can attend both sessions. Please read all the titles for each group

G. Z. Schmidt, author of *The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby*, will be our keynote speaker.



Please read all the titles for each group.

### Group 1 - Grades 3-5

- Crowder, Tracy Ocomy—*Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key*
- Oh, Ellen—*You Are Here: Connecting Flights*
- Schmidt, G.Z.—*The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby*
- Stead, Rebecca, and Mass, Wendy—*The Lost Library*
- Tandon, Nancy—*The Way I Say It*

### Group 2 - Grades 6-12

- Andreu, Maria E.—*Love in English*
- Bow, Erin—*Simon Sort of Says*
- Gemeinhart, Dan—*Midnight Children*
- Hammonds, Jas—*We Deserve Monuments*
- Swinarski, Claire—*What Happened to Rachel Riley*

This program has been approved for 8.5 contact hours of continuing education for attendees. Facilitators will receive 12 contact hours! If you would like to be a facilitator, or if you have any questions, contact [Joe Farmarco](#) or [Noel Knepper](#).

### Program Pricing:

**Members:** \$30

**Non-members:** \$45

**Student, Retired, Unemployed,  
or Friend:** \$30

## Division, Caucus, Committee, Panel, and Interest Group Meetings

### DECEMBER 2024

- 2 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Tracy Miller at [millert@hcplonline.org](mailto:millert@hcplonline.org).
- 4 BCMLA | 1:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Genive Purchase at [gpurchase@prattlibrary.org](mailto:gpurchase@prattlibrary.org).
- Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Google Meet.*  
Contact Lloyd Jansen at [ljansen@ccplonline.org](mailto:ljansen@ccplonline.org).
- 5 Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Nicole Bega at [nbega@stmalib.org](mailto:nbega@stmalib.org).
- 6 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Tif Sutherland at [tiffany.sutherland@calverlibrary.info](mailto:tiffany.sutherland@calverlibrary.info).
- 9 Youth Services Division | 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
*Online via Blackboard.*  
Contact Karen Earp at [kearp@wicomico.org](mailto:kearp@wicomico.org).
- 12 Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
*In-person at the Sollers Point Branch of BCPL or Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Pam Taylor at [taylor@hcplonline.org](mailto:taylor@hcplonline.org).
- 18 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Chelsea Shockley at [cshockle@prattlibrary.org](mailto:cshockle@prattlibrary.org).
- Kids are Customers Planning Committee | 12:30 p.m.**  
Contact Katlyn McLimans at [kmclimans@cecilcountylibrary.org](mailto:kmclimans@cecilcountylibrary.org).
- Steering Committee | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Josh Stone at [mlaexec@mdlib.org](mailto:mlaexec@mdlib.org).
- 19 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
Contact Conni Strittmatter at [cstrittmatter@bcpl.net](mailto:cstrittmatter@bcpl.net).
- TIGTalk | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
*Online on Discord.*  
Contact Jakki Williams at [jakkiwill@hotmail.com](mailto:jakkiwill@hotmail.com).
- 30 LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**  
*Online via MLA Connect.*  
Contact Kelly Clark at [kelly.clark@hclibrary.org](mailto:kelly.clark@hclibrary.org).

## Division, Caucus, Committee, Panel, and Interest Group Meetings

### JANUARY 2025

- 3** **Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
 Contact Tif Sutherland at [tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info](mailto:tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info)
- 6** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
 Contact Tracy Miller at [millert@hcplonline.org](mailto:millert@hcplonline.org)
- 8** **Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
 Contact Laura Bandoch at [bandoch@hcplonline.org](mailto:bandoch@hcplonline.org)
- 9** **Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
 Contact Matthew Lowder at [mldowder@cecilcountylibrary.org](mailto:mldowder@cecilcountylibrary.org)
- 10** **Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
 Contact Tif Sutherland at [tiffany.sutherland@calverlibrary.info](mailto:tiffany.sutherland@calverlibrary.info)
- 15** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
*Online via Zoom.*  
 Contact Chelsea Shockley at [cshockle@prattlibrary.org](mailto:cshockle@prattlibrary.org)
- 22** **Kids are Customers Planning Committee | 12:30 p.m.**  
 Contact Katlyn McLimans at [kmclimans@cecilcountylibrary.org](mailto:kmclimans@cecilcountylibrary.org)



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