

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



Photo from St. Mary's County Library's 75th Anniversary

This Issue

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- Advertising Opportunities

LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

Welcome to December's edition of The Happenings! As the year draws to a close, we have an exciting lineup of opportunities and events to share with you.

MLA Excellence in Marketing Awards are now open! We look forward to celebrating the innovative marketing work happening in libraries across Maryland. The **deadline for submissions is December 18th**, so don't miss your chance to showcase your library's creativity and impact.

For those who missed September's sessions, the **Sustainable Libraries initiative is offering two more introductory webinars on December 11th and December 12th.**

Looking ahead to the new year, save the date for **Library Legislative Day on February 10th.** This is our chance to come together and advocate for Maryland's libraries at the state level.

We're also pleased to announce two upcoming professional development opportunities: **Smarter, Not Harder: Goal Setting Made Easy** on **Thursday, February 26th** and **Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry—The Spring Edition** on **Thursday, March 12th.**

As we enter the holiday season, we hope you'll find time to reflect on the year behind us and the opportunities ahead. Whether you're preparing a marketing award submission, planning to join a sustainability webinar, or already looking forward to advocacy and professional development in the new year, we're grateful for your ongoing dedication to Maryland's library community.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen libraries across Maryland.

Warm regards,
Maryland Library Association

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE (SLI)

If you missed the introductory webinars for our SLI partnership in September, there are two more opportunities coming up!

Introduction to SLI

Thursday, December 11, 2025
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

This session will introduce the exclusive tools, resources, and methodologies that help library leaders make informed decisions aligned with the triple bottom line of sustainability: environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility.

[Register »](#)

Introduction to Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)

Friday, December 12, 2025
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Many of your members may not yet be aware that they are eligible for a 20% discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program. This webinar will walk attendees through what the SLCP is, what certification involves, and the benefits of participation.

[Register »](#)

MLA | DLA Annual Conference

May 6-8, 2026

Cambridge, Maryland

Thank you to everyone who submitted program proposals for the **2026 MLA|DLA Annual Conference!** The submission period is now closed, and we are currently reviewing all proposals.

**We will reach out to
presenters in December
with next steps.**

Want to be included in planning for the Conference?

Reach out to the 2026
Conference Chair, Paula
Mitchell at:

md.la.conference@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Save the Date for Library Legislative Day on Tuesday, February 10, 2026! Join librarians, advocates, and supporters from across the state as we gather in Annapolis to champion the vital role libraries play in our communities. More details to come!

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIVISION PRESENTS:****SMARTER, Not Harder:
Goal Setting Made Easy****Thursday, February 26, 2026 |
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

HCPL Miller Branch
9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

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

The registration deadline for this program is February 12, 2026.

Goal setting got you down? Think SMARTER! The 'who', 'what', 'why', 'when', and 'how' of creating dynamic goals that amp you up, recharge your productivity, and motivate you to succeed.

Come with ideas for one or two professional goals that you want to achieve. Learn the tools for success, and work both individually and within a group to transform your current goals into SMARTER goals. You'll have time to reflect on what you've learned, share insights that work for you, and ask any clarifying questions.

As library professionals, we are constantly evolving and resetting our priorities. But, are we always setting relevant and achievable goals? This program is aimed at employees at all levels and will enable attendees to rethink the goal setting process and make it less stressful, thereby turning it into a positive, invigorating experience.

Goal setting has been around for a while. SMART goals began to make the process easier. But, now the evolution to SMARTER goals gives us the chance to appreciate being able to evaluate the goals and take time to reward ourselves for our accomplishments.

This program has been approved for 2 contact hours of continuing education for attendees.

Program Pricing:**Members:** \$25**Non-members:** \$37.50**Student, Retired, or Friend****Memberships:** \$12.50

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:

**Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry (BEST)
2026—The Spring Edition****Thursday, March 12, 2026 |****9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Online via Zoom.

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

The **registration deadline is February 3, 2026** to ensure participants have enough time to read all of the titles.

Love talking about books? Join us for BEST 2026—The Spring Edition, a celebration of Juvenile Fiction for upper elementary and middle school grades. Learn about the Black-Eyed Susan Award and participate, via Zoom, in a half day of small group discussions of some of the 2025-2026 Juvenile Fiction nominees.

Program check-in begins at 9:25am, and the program will start at 9:30am. There will be two discussion groups, meeting twice, so you can attend both sessions.

Ally Russell, author of It Came from the Trees, will be our keynote speaker.



Please read all the titles for each group.

Group 1 - Grades 3-5

- Gidwitz, Adam—Max in the House of Spies (Operation Kinderspieg, Book 1)
- Miller, Chanel—Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All
- Millington, Allie—Olivetti
- Pla, Sally J. (Illustrated by De Regil, Tania)—Invisible Isabel
- Warga, Jasmine—A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall

Group 2 - Grades 6-8

- Choldenko, Gennifer—The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman
- Day, Nicholas (Illustrated by Helquist, Brett)—The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, A Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity
- Mendez, Jasminne—Aniana Del Mar Jumps In
- Pla, Sally J.—The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn
- Russell, Ally—It Came from the Trees

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

Program Pricing:**Members:** \$30**Non-members:** \$45**Student, Retired, or Friend****Memberships:** \$15

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

DECEMBER 2025

- 3 BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org.
- Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Lloyd Jansen at ljansen@ccplonline.org.
- Legislative Panel | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Liz Sundermann at lsundermann@prattlibrary.org.
- 4 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info.
- Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Nicole Bega at nbega@stmalib.org.
- 8 Youth Services Division | 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org.
- 9 Conference Social Committee | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov.
- 11 Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**
Sollers Point Branch of BCPL and MLA Connect
Contact Melissa Lauber at mлаuber@ccplonline.org.
- 17 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Paula Mitchell at pmitchell@prattlibrary.org.
- Steering Committee Meeting | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Joshua Stone at mлаexec@mdlib.org.
- 18 Marketing Committee | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Alyssia Gilmore at gilmore@hcplonline.org.
- EDI Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org.
- 29 LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net.

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

JANUARY 2026

- 2 Readers' Advisory Interest Group |**
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
Contact Meg Faller at
meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 5 Future of Libraries Interest Group |**
10:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at
millert@hcplonline.org
- 7 BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Genive Purchase at
gpurchase@prattlibrary.org
- Legislative Panel | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Liz Sundermann at
lsundermann@prattlibrary.org
- 8 Leadership Development Division |**
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
Contact Ana Carroll at
agcarroll@bcpl.net
- 12 Youth Services Division |**
11:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Karen Earp at
kearp@wicomico.org
- 13 Conference Social Committee |**
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom.
Contact Catherine Wimberley at
catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov
- 14 Materials Interest Group |**
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Laura Bandoch at
bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 15 Marketing Committee |**
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Alyssia Gilmore at
gilmore@hcplonline.org
- EDI Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact William Wallace at
wwallace@wicomico.org
- 21 Conference Committee |**
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
Contact Paula Mitchell at
pmitchell@prattlibrary.org
- Executive Advisory Board |**
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Miller Branch, Howard County Library System
Contact Joshua Stone at
mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 26 ACRL-MD | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Gaby Messinger at
gmessinger@ubalt.edu

ADVERTISE WITH THE MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

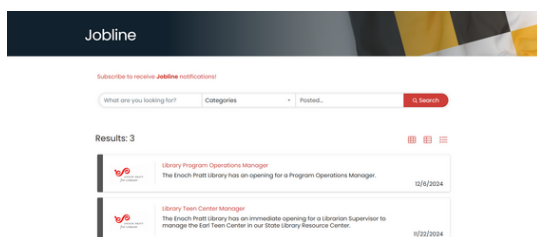
JOBLINE

Post job listings on this trusted source for library employers and job seekers, available publicly on mdlib.org.

\$500 Annual Jobline Subscription

\$100 One-Time 30-Day Jobline Posting

\$50 One-Time 2-Week Jobline Posting



VENDOR DIRECTORY

Showcase your company in this exclusive directory, accessible to the public at mdlib.org and to members in the Info Hub.

\$300 Corporate Membership

WEBSITE ADVERTISING

Reach a wide audience with banner ads on the Maryland Library Association website.

\$450 Large Banner Ad, 1 Year

\$300 Medium Banner Ad, 1 Year

\$120 Small Banner Ad, 1 Year

THE CRAB ADVERTISING

Advertise in our quarterly Crab newsletter that covers news, reports, articles, and events relevant to the library community.

\$400 Full Page, 1 Year (4 Issues)

\$225 Half-Page, 1 Year (4 Issues)

\$150 Full Page, Single Issue

\$70 Half-Page, Single Issue



THE HAPPENINGS ADVERTISING

\$600 Full Page, 1 Year (12 Issues)

\$350 Half-Page, 1 Year (12 Issues)

\$95 Full Page, Single Issue

\$50 Half-Page, Single Issue



If you are interested in advertising with the Maryland Library Association, contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org.

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

MONTH 202X

ACRL-MD | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Gaby Messenger at
gmessenger@ubalt.edu

Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

MLA Connect

Contact Melissa Lauber at
mлаuber@ccplonline.org

BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Genive Purchase at
gpurchase@prattlibrary.org

Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Paula Mitchell at
pmitchell@prattlibrary.org

Emerging Adults Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Stephanie Wiant at
swiant@frederickcountymd.gov

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact William Wallace at
wwallace@wicomico.org

Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Tracy Miller at
millert@hcplonline.org

Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Online via Google Meets.

Contact Lloyd Jansen at
ljansen@ccplonline.org

Kids are Customers Planning Committee | 12:30 p.m.

Contact Katlyn McLimans at
kmclimans@cecilcountylibrary.org

Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Online via MLA Connect.

Contact Tif Sutherland at
tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info

Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Ana Carroll at
agcarroll@bcpl.net

Legislative Panel | ??

Online via Zoom.

Contact Liz Sundermann-Zinger at
lsundermann@prattlibrary.org

LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Shannon Carney at
scarney@bcpl.net

Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group | ?

Online via Zoom.

Contact Lisa Swain at
lsswain@bcpl.net

Marketing Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Contact Alyssia Gilmore at
gilmore@hcplonline.org

Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Laura Bandoch at
bandoch@hcplonline.org

Outreach Services Interest Group | ??

Online via Zoom.

Contact Sabine Simonson at
ssimonson@tcfl.org

Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Meg Faller at
meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info

Social Committee | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Catherine Wimberley at
catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov

Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Maria Jacobs at
lmepperl@bcpl.net

Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Nicole Bega at
nbega@stmalib.org

Teen Interest Group | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom.

Contact Jakki Williams at
jwilliams@washcolibrary.org

Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Online via Blackboard.

Contact Karen Earp at
kearp@wicomico.org

Executive Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Contact Joshua Stone at
mлаexec@mdlib.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

President
David Dahl

Vice President
Conni Strittmatter

Past President
Teonja Jung

Treasurer
Cheryl Nardiello

Secretary
Laura Bandoch

ALA Councilor
Joseph Thompson

Conference Director
Paula Mitchell

Executive Director
Joshua Stone

PANELS

Equity, Diversity, &
Inclusion
William Wallace

Intellectual Freedom
Lloyd Jansen

Legislative
Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Professional
Development
Anita Crawford

DIVISION CHAIRS

Academic & Research
Libraries (ACRL-MD)
Gaby Messinger (VP)

Adult Services & Reference
(ASRD)
Sara Szymanski

Black Caucus of MLA
(BCMLA)
Genive Purchase

Leadership Development
(LDD)
Ana Carroll

Support Staff (SSD)
Maria Jacob

Youth Services (YSD)
Jessica Letizia

ADVISORY COUNCIL

State Librarian
Morgan Miller

MSLA
Tamar Sarnoff

Assistant Legislative Officer
Allison Jennings-Roche

Assistant Conference
Director
Mike Kiel

Archives Chair
Leah Sims

Crab Editor
Julie Fitzpatrick

Webmaster
Bob Kuntz

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards
Catherine Hollerbach

Budget & Finance
Cheryl Nardiello

LTTC and MLLI
*Joseph Thompson &
Ashley Teagle*

Marketing
Alyssia Gilmore

Maryland Author Award
Lisa Kenyon

Nominations & Elections
Nay Keppler

Planning & Bylaws
Conni Strittmatter

INTEREST GROUPS

Emerging Adults
Stephanie Wiant

Future of Libraries
Tracy Miller

Library Advocacy
Tif Sutherland

LGBTQIA+
Shannon Carney

Maryland Adult
Programming
Lisa Swain

Materials
Laura Bandoch

Outreach Services
Sabine Simonson

Readers' Advisory
Meg Faller

Sustainability
Nicole Bega

Teen
Tori George