

MARCH 2026 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

As spring approaches, we have an exciting lineup of opportunities for professional growth and community connection.

But first: **MLA Elections are still open!** Take a moment to vote for new board members who will help shape the future of our organization. **Voting closes March 13th**, so please make your voice heard before it's too late.

We hope you'll join us for an upcoming MLA Chat—**Much Ado about the MLIS Degree Program on March 24th** and **Politics and Policies in Public Libraries on April 28th**.

Don't miss the **Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry—The Spring Edition on March 12th**, celebrating Maryland's rich literary tradition.

And mark your calendars for the **Kids Are Customers, Too! Conference on April 7th**—a wonderful opportunity to explore best practices in serving our youngest library users.

Looking further ahead, we're excited to offer **How to Effectively Manage Organizational Change on June 18th**—a valuable professional development opportunity for library leaders and staff navigating transitions in their organizations.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,
The MLA Office

MLA Elections

The 2026-2027 ballot for MLA office is open through March 13 to all active MLA members.

To vote, simply [complete the online ballot](#) for the Executive Offices, as well as Divisions you are affiliated with, then hit submit. Remember, only vote for one candidate per office.

Join us for MLA Chats

MLA Chats is a virtual forum where MLA members can participate in a facilitated discussion on topics impacting their work and librarianship in general.

These events are free to MLA members. You must be logged into your MLA Account to register.

MLA Chats: Much Ado about the MLIS Degree Program

**Tuesday, March 24, 2026 |
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for an informational chat and Q&A with Ryan O'Grady about the pros and cons of getting an MLS/MLIS degree, for those considering it.

[Register on mdlib.org](#)

MLA Chats: Politics and Policies in Public Libraries

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026 |
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for an informational chat and Q&A with Ryan O'Grady about the history and political structure of public libraries.

[Register on mdlib.org](#)



May 6-8, 2026

Cambridge, Maryland

**Early bird registration ends
March 23, 2026 for the
MLA|DLA Conference: Our
Stories, Our Shelves!**

This year's theme, "Our Stories, Our Shelves," celebrates the power of stories in our communities and the library collections that reflect them.

Learn more and register at mdlib.org/conference.

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)

The **registration deadline is February 12, 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 Kinderspion, 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**

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:**Kids Are Customers, Too!
Conference****Tuesday, April 7, 2026 |
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom.****[Register on mdlib.org](https://mdlib.org)******The registration deadline for this program is March 24, 2026.***

The 2026 Kids are Customers Too Conference is an opportunity for library staff working with children, tweens and teens in public libraries and school media centers throughout the state to meet new people, renew contacts and learn the latest information affecting the diverse field in which they work. Join us at the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library System on Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 from 10:00-4:00 p.m.

Presenters will be sharing big ideas and practical tips that will inform and uplift your work with youth. The annual Maryland Blue Crab Young Reader Award for beginning and transitional literature will also be announced at the conference.

Ellen Oh, Middle Grade and Young Adult Author, is keynote speaker!

Ellen Oh is an award-winning author and editor of numerous middle grade and young adult novels including *The House Next Door*, *On The Block: Stories of Home*, *The Colliding Worlds of Mina Lee*, *You Are Here: Connecting Flights*, *Finding Junie Kim*, and the *Spirit Hunters* trilogy. A former adjunct college instructor and lawyer, Ellen is also a founding member of We Need Diverse Books, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing diversity in children's literature. Originally from New York City, Ellen lives in Rockville, Maryland, with her husband, three human children, and two dog children and has yet to satisfy her quest for a decent bagel. (Professional Bio from ellenoh.com).

This program has been approved for **4 contact hours** of continuing education for attendees. Attendees must stay for the entire conference to receive all 4 contact hours.

Program Pricing:**Members: \$65****Non-members: \$90****Student, Retired, or Friend****Memberships: \$35**

SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION PRESENTS:
How to Effectively Manage Organizational Change

Thursday, June 18, 2026 |
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Arbutus Branch of BCPL
855 Sulphur Spring Road
Baltimore, MD 21227

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

Change is a fundamental component of any organization looking to continuously improve and evolve. Everyone handles change differently.

This program offers insight into how to navigate change for the organization and individuals. It will identify barriers and how to break them down.

This program has been approved for 3.25 contact hours of continuing education for attendees. Attendees must stay for the entire event to receive contact hours.

Program Pricing:

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$37.50

Student membership or retired membership: \$12.50



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 Federally Insured by the NCUA

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

MARCH 2026

- 2** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org.
- 4** **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.
- 5** **Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info.
- 9** **Youth Services Division | 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Jessica Letizia at jletizia@bcpl.net.
- 10** **Conference Social Committee | 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov.
- 11** **Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org.
- 12** **Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**
MLA Connect and Elkridge Branch of Howard County Library System
Contact Melissa Lauber at mлаuber@ccplonline.org.
- Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Ana Carroll at agcarroll@bcpl.net.
- 18** **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 mлаexec@mdlib.org.
- 19** **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.
- 23** **ACRL-MD | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu.

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

APRIL 2026

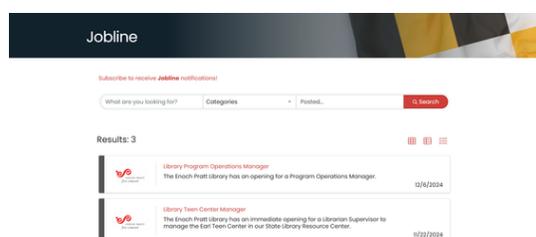
- 1 BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org
- Legislative Panel | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Liz Sundermann at lsundermann@prattlibrary.org
- 2 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- 3 Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 6 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 9 Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**
Elkridge Branch of Howard County Library System
Contact Maria Jacobs at imepperl@bcpl.net
- 13 Youth Services Division | 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.**
Marilyn J. Praisner Library, Montgomery County Public Libraries
Contact Jessica Letizia at jletizia@bcpl.net
- 14 Conference Social Committee | 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov
- 15 Conference Committee Site Visit | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay
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 mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 16 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
- Sustainability Interest Group | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Nicole Hance at nhance@stmalib.org
- 22 Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Lloyd Jansen at ljansen@ccplonline.org
- 27 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.