

APRIL 2026 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

The votes are in! Thank you to every member who took part in this year's MLA Elections. Your participation keeps our organization strong. Keep reading to see the full list of newly elected board members.

This spring brings some events you won't want to miss. On **Tuesday, April 7th**, the **Kids Are Customers, Too! Conference** offers a deep dive into best practices for serving young library users. On **Thursday, April 23rd**, **Removing Barriers and Identifying Resources For Our Communities** will help you learn how to better serve immigrant communities and build effective partnerships within your broader community

Our next **MLA Chat, *Politics and Policies in Public Libraries***, takes place **Tuesday, April 28th** with Ryan O'Grady.

It's a discussion that feels especially relevant right now, and we hope you'll bring your questions.

And if you haven't yet had a chance to register, registration is still open for the **2026 MLA|DLA Conference** in Cambridge, MD from **May 6th-8th**.

Finally, save the date for **How to Effectively Manage Organizational Change on Thursday, June 18th**. Whether you're leading a transition or living through one, this professional development session is designed to help.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Warm regards,
The MLA Office

MLA Elections

The Maryland Library Association is pleased to announce the results of this year's board elections! We extend our congratulations to the newly elected members who will begin their terms in July 2026 for the 2026–27 fiscal year, and a sincere thank you to all members who participated by casting their votes.

One position is still being filled: a special election for the Leadership Development Division Vice President will be held in April.

Please join us in welcoming the following individuals to their new leadership roles:

MLA Vice President/President Elect:

Ashley Teagle

MLA Secretary:

Paul Chasen

ALA Councilor:

Joe Thompson

ACRL-MD Vice President:

Tachalla Ferris

ACRL-MD Secretary:

Jennifer Martin

**Adult Services & Reference Division
Vice President:**

Tina Deifallah

**Adult Services & Reference Division
Secretary:**

Rohini Gupta

BCMLA Vice President:

Alyssia Gilmore

BCMLA Secretary:

Britt Pressley

**Leadership Development Division
Secretary:**

Sarah Nadeau

Support Staff Division Vice President:

Jill Murphy

Support Staff Division Secretary:

Albina Schafert

Youth Services Division Vice President:

Karen Earp

Youth Services Division Secretary:

Jessica Letizia

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: Politics and Policies in Public Libraries

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

[Register on mdlib.org](#)

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

Ryan joined the UMD iSchool as a lecturer in August 2020 as an expert in leveraging libraries to support individuals' entrepreneurial and career goals, playing a significant role locally and nationally in deepening the library's role in workforce development.

He is currently the LATI Coordinator through the Maryland State Library and formerly the Deputy Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Central Library in Baltimore, where a central focus of his was providing workforce resources to the community. Ryan provides training to librarians across Maryland and the U.S. to facilitate library-based professional development, works with the American Library Association on its Media Literacy Education in Libraries for Adult Audiences project, and served on a regional project for the national Urban Library Council seeking to elevate libraries as transformative institutions in workforce development.



OUR STORIES, OUR SHELVES

MLA • DLA Conference 2026

May 6-8, 2026

Cambridge, Maryland

**There's still time to
register 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**](https://mdlib.org/conference).

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 was 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**

**ADULT SERVICES & REFERENCE DIVISION AND
OUTREACH SERVICES INTEREST GROUP PRESENT:**
**Removing Barriers and Identifying
Resources For Our Communities**

Thursday, April 23, 2026 |

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Elkridge Branch of the
Howard County Public Library*

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

**The registration deadline for this
program is April 15, 2026.**

Libraries are more than just books. We provide a wide variety of services to our customers, such as mobile hotspots, COVID test kits, passport services, and so much more. The first segment of our program, presented by Ben Hamilton, features Howard County Public Library's Project Literacy and how this program's four pathways support the immigrant community.

The second segment features Sarah Anderson, the Program and Outreach Manager for Community Engagement at the Charles County Public Library, and will showcase information about community partnerships and what they can provide for our patrons.

This program has been approved for **3 contact hours** of continuing education for attendees. Attendees must stay for the entire conference to receive all 3 contact hours.

Program Pricing:

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$37.50

Student, Retired, or Friend

Memberships: \$12.50

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

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
- 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 lmepperl@bcpl.net
- 10 Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 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 miaexec@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
- 25 Maryland Day | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
University of Maryland College Park.
 Contact Joe Thompson at jthompson@carr.org.
- 27 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

MAY 2026

- 11 Youth Services Division | 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Jessica Letizia at jletizia@bcpl.net.
- 13 Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org.
- 20 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Paula Mitchell at pmitchell@prattlibrary.org.
- 20 Executive Advisory Board | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Miller Branch, Howard County Library System
 Contact Joshua Stone at miaexec@mdlib.org.
- 21 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.



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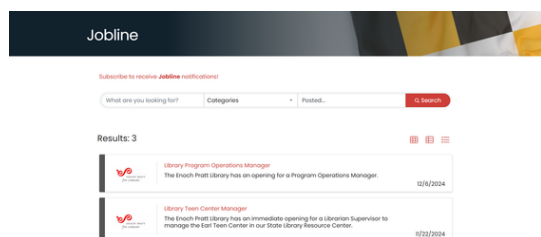
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ADVERTISE WITH THE MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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.