

MARCH 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF Our Spring Lineup!

Spring is just around the corner, and with the change of seasons comes a fresh lineup of programs and events!

Mark your calendars for our **Annual Conference, happening May 7-9, 2025**, where we'll gather to learn, connect, and celebrate the amazing work happening in Maryland's libraries.

This year, we are especially excited to recognize the individuals and teams who have gone above and beyond to serve their communities. These award winners embody the creativity, dedication, and impact of Maryland's library professionals and we can't wait to honor their achievements.

But before that, don't miss the **Kids Are Customers, Too! Conference** on March

25th, a fantastic opportunity to explore best practices for serving our youngest patrons.

These events, along with our regularly scheduled group meetings, are designed to inspire and support library professionals across the state.

Whether you're looking to gain new skills, share innovative ideas, or simply reconnect with colleagues, we encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities.

We can't wait to see you there!

Warm regards,
Maryland Library Association

Congratulations to our 2025 Annual Award Winners!

2025 Honorary Membership Award

Debby Bennett

Caroline County Public Library

2025 Honorary Membership Award

Kerry O'Donnell

Wicomico Public Library

2025 Libraries Change Communities Award

Nay Keppler

Baltimore County Public Library
Community Reading Festival

2025 Libraries Change Communities Award

Sarah Mullen, Michelle Noble, Vilma Sandoval-Sall

Anne Arundel County Public Library
Partnership with Seeds for Success

2025 MLA President's Customer Service Award

Sierra Walker and the staff of Project Encore

Enoch Pratt Free Library

2025 Outstanding Member Award

Tif Sutherland

Calvert County Public Library

2025 Outstanding Support Staff Award

Shirley Mason

Baltimore County Public Library

2025 Outstanding Volunteer Award

Lois Findlay

Anne Arundel County Public Library

2025 Project of the Year Award

Thomas Vose

Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County
Classic Buttons Program

2025 Project of the Year Award

Andrea Berstler

Carroll County Public Library
Mock Trial Camp

2025 Margaret Carty Emerging Leader Award

Alice Spencer-Knell

Anne Arundel County Public Library

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

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:**Kids are Customers, Too!
Conference****Thursday, March 25, 2025 |
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

*Miller Branch Library
Howard County Library System
9424 Frederick Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042 United States*
[Register on mdlib.org](https://mdlib.org).

This youth services 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, March 25th, 2025, from 10:00 am – 4:00pm. KAC Conference is a day's worth of presenters sharing big ideas and practical tips that will inform and uplift your work with youth. The annual Blue Crab Young Reader Awards for beginning and transitional literature are also announced at the conference.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Patricia A. Jennings, professor of education and internationally recognized leader in the fields of social and emotional learning and mindfulness. She has received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the University of Virginia and the Cathy Kerr Award for Courageous and Compassionate Scientific Contributions from the Mind & Life Institute.

Special guest author is Cerece Rennie Murphy, national bestselling author of speculative fiction for youth and founder of Virtuous Con. She is the recipient of Black Pearls Magazine's Author of the Year Award for Children's Literature and the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA)'s Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award for significant contributions to the science fiction, fantasy, and related genres community.

Attendees will receive 4 CEUs for attending the conference.

Attendees must stay for the entire conference to receive all 4 CEUs.

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

2025 MLA|DLA Annual Conference: The Beach Edition!

May 7 - 9, 2025

Roland E. Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

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

Pack your sunscreen, your boogie board, and your favorite beach read because we're heading back to Ocean City for the 2025 MLA|DLA Annual Conference: *The Beach Edition!*

Attendees can explore the latest trends in library technology, discover best practices in information literacy, and engage with innovative ideas in community outreach and services.

The conference also features an exhibit hall showcasing the latest and greatest library products and services, offering participants the chance to learn about new tools and resources that can enhance their work.



Register today for what is sure to be another *seasational* MLA|DLA Annual Conference!

Early Bird registration rates expire on March 24, 2025, so don't wait to register!

Early Bird Pricing:

Full Conference: Members: \$250

Full Conference: Non-members: \$290

Full Conference: Library Student: \$210

One Day: Members: \$220

One Day: Non-members: \$260

One Day: Library Student: \$180



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

MARCH 2025

- 3 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 5 BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org
- 7 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- 11 Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Blackboard.
 Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 12 Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 13 Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Matthew Lowder at mlowder@cecilcountylibrary.org
- Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Pam Taylor at taylor@hcplonline.org
- Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Lisa Swain at lsswain@bcpl.net
- 18 Social Committee | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- 19 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- 20 Emerging Adults Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Stephanie Wiant at swiant@frederickcountymd.gov
- ACRL-MD | 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Kate Strain at kstrain@loyola.edu
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Conni Strittmatter at cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- 23 Kids are Customers Planning Committee | 12:30 p.m.**
 Contact Katlyn McLimans at kmclimans@cecilcountylibrary.org
- 24 Teen Interest Group | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Jakki Williams at jwilliams@washcolibrary.org
- 26 Executive Board Meeting | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
 Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org

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

APRIL 2025

- 2** **BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org
- Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Google Meets.
Contact Lloyd Jansen at ljansen@ccplonline.org
- 3** **Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Lou Sica at lsica@bcpl.net
- Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Nicole Bega at nbega@stmalib.org
- 4** **Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 8** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 16** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- 17** **Emerging Adults Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Stephanie Wiant at swiant@frederickcountymd.gov
- ACRL-MD | 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Kate Strain at kstrain@loyola.edu
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Conni Strittmatter at cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- 24** **Marketing Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Contact Amy Miller-Meyers at amymill@carr.org
- 28** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net