

JULY 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

As we turn the page to a new fiscal year, the Maryland Library Association is thrilled to share the latest edition of Happenings with you.

We hope you'll join us in welcoming our new advisory board members who bring fresh perspectives and expertise to guide our association forward. Their diverse backgrounds and innovative ideas will help us continue to serve Maryland's libraries and the communities they support.

This month, we're highlighting two upcoming events that showcase the breadth of our professional community:

Maryland Library Advocates Unite: A Library Advocacy Conference takes place Tuesday, July 24, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for this one-day conference designed to empower library workers, stakeholders, and supporters with advocacy tools for all Maryland libraries.

Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry (BEST) 2025 —The Fall Edition follows **Thursday, October 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Join us via Zoom for this celebration of the 2025-2026 nominees for Picture Books and Children's Nonfiction, featuring David LaRochelle, author of *Mr. Fox's Book of No!*, as keynote speaker.

Thank you for being an essential part of Maryland's vibrant library community.

Warm regards,
Maryland Library Association

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Outreach Services
Sabine Simonson

Readers' Advisory
Meg Faller

Sustainability
Nicole Bega

Teen
Tori George

MLA CHATS

Customer service, research and reference skills, safety and security, and programming

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

| 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Online via Zoom

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

Registration is now open for our fourth quarterly MLA Chats program. MLA Chats is a virtual quarterly forum where MLA members can participate in a facilitated discussion on topics impacting their work and librarianship in general.

July's session will focus on customer service, research and reference skills, safety and security, and programming.

This session will be facilitated by Cathy Hollerbach and Carol Cason of Anne Arundel Public Library.

You must be logged into your MLA Account to register. If you're not sure if you're an MLA member, please reach out to the MLA office at mla@mdlib.org.

**Registration Pricing:
Free to MLA members.**



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LIBRARY ADVOCACY INTEREST GROUP PRESENTS

Maryland Library Advocates Unite: A Library Advocacy Conference**Tuesday, July 24, 2025****9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Miller Branch Library,
Howard County Library System
9421 Frederick Rd.
Ellicott City, MD 21042

[Register on mdlib.org.](#)

Join us for the **Maryland Library Advocates Unite: A Library Advocacy Conference**, a one-day conference designed to empower library workers, stakeholders, and supporters with the tools they need to speak up and take action for all Maryland libraries.

Through expert-led sessions, practical strategies, and collaborative learning, attendees will gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to engage stakeholders, influence policy, and strengthen support for libraries at every opportunity.

Whether you're new to advocacy or looking to deepen your impact, this event will equip you to be a powerful voice in supporting Maryland libraries.

Join us for sessions on:

- Thriving Libraries & Communities Through Advocacy at All Levels
- Empowering Library Advocates
- Branching Out: Growing Strategic Community Connections
- Crafting Your Library Advocacy Elevator Speech

Attendees will receive 4 contact hours.

Registration Pricing:**MLA Members:** \$75**Non-Members:** \$100**ALA Dual, Retired, or Student Members:** \$50

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:

**Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry (BEST)
2025—The Fall Edition****Thursday, October 16, 2025 |****9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

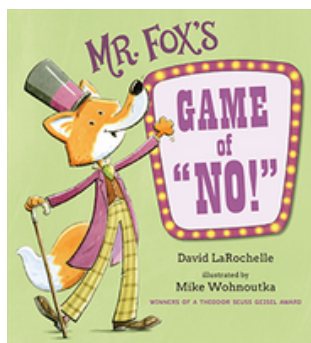
Online via Zoom.

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

Love talking about books? Join us for BEST 2025—The Fall Edition, a celebration of Picture Books and Children's Nonfiction. 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 Picture Book and Juvenile Nonfiction 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.

David LaRochelle, author of *Mr. Fox's Book of No!*, will be our keynote speaker.



Please read all the titles for each group.

Group 1 - Picture Books

- LaRochelle, David; Wohnoutka (illus.) —*Mr. Fox's Game of "No!"*
- Long, Loren—*The Yellow Bus*
- MacLean, Roz—*More Than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean*
- Saltzberg, Barney—*A Delicious Story*
- Stead, Philip; Cordell, Matthew (illus.) —*Every Dog in the Neighborhood*

Group 2 - Grades 6-12

- Ævar Þór Benediktsson; Wilson, Anne (illus.)—*Stranded! A Mostly True Story from Iceland*
- Lanan, Jessica—*Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider*
- Larsen, Andrew; Vidal, Oriol (illus.)—*Gifts from the Garbage Truck: A True Story About the Things We (Don't) Throw Away*
- Savage, Chloe—*The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish*
- Taylor, Helen; Lewis, Stevie (illus.)—*How to Eat in Space*

This program has been approved for **4 contact hours** of continuing education for attendees. Group discussion leaders will receive **7 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, Unemployed,
or Friend:** \$15

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

JULY 2025

- 7** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 9** **Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 10** **Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Ana Carroll at agcarroll@bcpl.net
- 11** **Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 16** **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.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 24** **ACRL-MD | 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu
- 28** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net

Division, Caucus, Committee, Panel, and Interest Group Meetings**AUGUST 2025**

- 4** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org.
- 6** **Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Lloyd Jansen at ljansen@ccplonline.org.
- 7** **Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**
Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled
Contact Lou Sica at lsica@bcpl.net
- Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Nicole Bega at nbega@stmalib.org.
- 11** **Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org.
- 20** **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 mlaexec@mdlib.org.
- 21** **Outreach Services Interest Group | 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Sabine Simonson at ssimonson@tcfl.org.
- 25** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net.