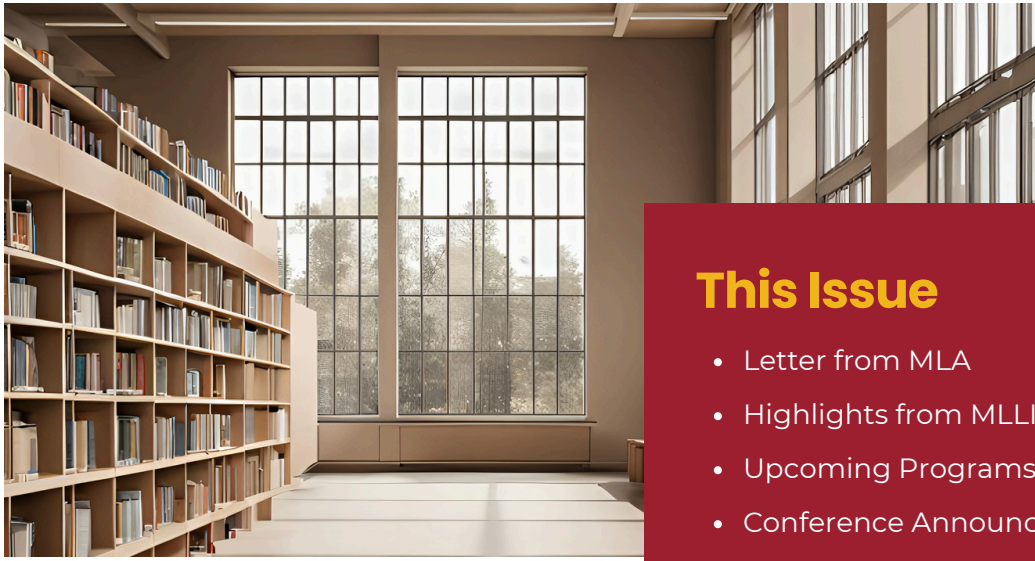


APRIL 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



This Issue

- Letter from MLA
- Highlights from MLLI
- Upcoming Programs
- Conference Announcement
- April & May Meetings

LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

New Opportunities for Learning

Spring is finally here, bringing fresh energy and new opportunities for learning and connection! At the Maryland Library Association, we're embracing the season with engaging discussions, professional development opportunities, and exciting plans for the year ahead.

Next month, we invite you to join us for **MLA Chats**, where we'll explore essential topics like staff well-being, mentoring, professional development, and fostering DEI in workplace culture. These conversations are a great way to connect with colleagues and share insights that strengthen our libraries and communities.

We're also hosting a **Job Seekers Help Unconference** where you can learn about

valuable resources and programming options to serve job seekers within an on demand and uncertain environment

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for the **2025 MLA/DLA Annual Conference**. If you haven't already, there is still time to register! Mark your calendars and stay tuned for updates—it's sure to be another inspiring gathering of library professionals from across the region.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events. Until then, enjoy the season and keep making a difference in your libraries!

Warm regards,
Maryland Library Association

Reflecting on the Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute (MLLI)

There is a lot of uncertainty surrounding our profession these days, and sometimes it can be hard to find any bright spots. Despite this bleakness, or maybe because of it, I recently found some hope in the 2025 cohort of the **Nettie B. Taylor Maryland Library Leadership Institute**. It was my privilege to spend a week working with and learning from our next crop of library leaders. When I came on board with MLA in 2022, one of the first projects on the table was bringing back MLLI; after 3 years of dedication and passion, the MLLI Planning Committee didn't just bring it back, they created one of the most profoundly impactful and immersive leadership development programs I have ever seen. I am incredibly proud of all the work they did to relaunch this program

For the week of March 16-21, the 2025 MLLI cohort stayed at the Maritime Conference Center and immersed themselves in a truly unique library leadership program. From that very first evening, you could tell this cohort was special and that we were all in for transformational week.

Over the week that followed, the cohort pushed themselves to be open, to be vulnerable, to be their authentic selves. As I've said many times, my Grinch heart grew 3 times larger being around their enthusiasm and their pragmatic and tangible hope. I watched as they worked with the on-site mentors to tackle real-life issues with candid openness and honesty, and I can tell you without a doubt, the profession is in good hands. I saw first-hand how unflinching our future library leaders are. I saw exactly why Maryland is "Library Heaven." I saw what makes MLA so strong: participants and mentors who care so deeply about our profession that they spent an entire week working to help each other grow.

I want to sincerely thank our partners at the **Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA)**, and our supporters at the **Cecil County Public Library** and **Harford County Public Library** for helping fund this important program. I'd also like to thank our facilitators for creating an incredible program, and our on-site mentors who wholly gave themselves for the development of others. I also cannot thank our mentors who came in for the Thursday "speed mentor" program enough. You all helped energize and empower the cohort despite the awful weather. Finally, I want to congratulate and thank our 2025 Maryland Library Leadership Institute graduates. Through your dedication, earnestness, energy, and honesty you helped form a new vision for MLLI. You were all truly inspiring.

Here's the thing though, **transformational programs like this couldn't happen without funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)**. Funds that MSLA distributes to libraries not only help pay for professional development like MLLI, but provide the essential services you provide to our communities. Funds from LSTA make it possible for libraries to be there for our neighbors. So, whether you're a library worker or a library supporter, I urge you to contact your Congressional Representatives and demand that they continue to fully fund IMLS, because without it, our communities will suffer.

ALA's Show Up for Our Libraries campaign makes it easy for you to find and contact your representatives. [Use this link to share your stories.](#)

Congratulations to the 2025 MLLI Cohort:

- Alyssia Gilmore, Harford County Public Library
- Amy Dickinson, St. Mary's County Library
- Amy Miller-Myers, Carroll County Public Library
- Anneliese Trainer, Calvert Library
- Annie Sageng, Baltimore County Public Library
- Brittany Cornish, St. Mary's County Library
- David Bauer, Towson University Albert S. Cook Library
- Emily Levine, Enoch Pratt Free Library
- Erica Owusu, University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions
- Etienne Nadeau, Baltimore County Public Library
- Genive Purchase, Enoch Pratt Free Library
- Gray Dickerson, Montgomery County Public Libraries
- Hayden Muse, Queen Anne's County Library
- Jayne Walters, Anne Arundel County Public Library
- Jessica Cordova, Baltimore County Public Library
- Kaitlyn Ennis, Cecil County Public Library
- Katie Marley, Southern Maryland Regional Library Association
- Marlyn Norton, Baltimore County Public Library
- Michael Jackson, Baltimore County Public Library
- Patrick Gorirossi, Anne Arundel County Public Library
- Precious Abujana, Prince George's County Memorial Library System
- Stevia Morales, Howard County Public Library
- Tim Pratt, Maryland State Library Agency

2025 MLLI On-Site Mentors:

- Alison Jennings-Roche – University of Baltimore, Robert L. Bogomolny Library
- Ashley Teagle - Southern Maryland Regional Library Association
- Dan Ramirez - Prince George's County Memorial Library System
- Daria Parry – Harford County Public Library
- Jenny Bakos – Washington County Free Library
- Tif Sutherland - Calvert Library

2025 MLLI Speed Mentors:

- Sonia Alcantara-Antoine – Baltimore County Public Library
- Sara Arnold – Carroll County Public Library
- Sarah Jane Brunson – Baltimore County Public Library

2025 MLLI Speed Mentors (cont.):

- Paul Chasen – Enoch Pratt Free Library
- David Dahl (MLA President-Elect) – University of Maryland Libraries, McKeldin Library
- Jessica Faulkner – Baltimore County Public Library
- Darnice Jasper - Anne Arundel County Public Library
- Teonja Jung (MLA President) – Baltimore County Public Library
- Shirley Mason – Baltimore County Public Library
- Cassie Miller – Baltimore County Public Library
- Jessica Mundy – Maryland State Law Library
- Michael Shochet - University of Baltimore, Robert L. Bogomolny Library
- Bria Sinnott – Towson University, Albert S. Cook Library
- Conni Strittmatter – Baltimore County Public Library
- Joe Thompson – Carroll County Public Library
- Zeke White – Baltimore County Public Library
- Anna White – Baltimore County Public Library
- Tyler Wolfe – Baltimore County Public Library

2025 MLLI Planning Committee:

- Joe Thompson – Carroll County Public Library
- Ashley Teagle – Southern Maryland Regional Library Association
- Sonia Alcantara-Antoine – Baltimore County Public Library
- Alyn Au – Enoch Pratt Free Library
- Nini Beegan – Maryland State Library Agency
- Carol Cason – Anne Arundel County Public Library
- Darnice Jasper – Anne Arundel County Public Library
- Teonja Jung (MLA President) – Baltimore County Public Library
- Dan Ramirez – Prince George's County Memorial Library System
- Michael Shochet – University of Baltimore, Robert L. Bogomolny Library
- Bria Sinnott – Towson University, Albert S. Cook Library
- Tif Sutherland (MLA Past-President) – Calvert Library

MLA CHATS:**Developing Staff Well-Being, Mentoring and Professional Development, and DEI in Workplace Culture****Tuesday, April 15, 2025 |****2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

Online via Zoom - This event is free to MLA members.

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

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

April's session will focus on motivating and developing staff well-being, mentoring and professional development, and DEI in workplace culture.

This session will be facilitated by Ana Carroll of Baltimore County Public Library and Becky Hass of Anne Arundel County Library.

You must be logged in to your MLA account in order to register. This will not be recorded. Please feel free to reach out to Nay Keppler with any questions!

ASRD PRESENTS:**Job Seekers Help Unconference****Thursday, April 24, 2025 |****1:00 - 4:30 p.m.**

Sollers Point Branch of BCPL.

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

Do you have ideas for serving job seekers on the reference desk or in programs that would fit their needs? Are you looking for new ideas or ways to overcome challenges in serving customers?

This unconference will create a space to discuss resources and programming options to serve job seekers within an on demand and uncertain environment. Come ready to discuss and share resources, programming and services for helping customers in their job hunts in a flexible, conversational format with staff from around the state.

Attendees will receive 3.25 CEUs.

Registration Pricing:**MLA Members:** \$25.00**Non-Members:** \$37.50**ALA Dual, Retired, or Student****Members:** \$12.50

**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.](#)



There's 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!

Registration 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

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 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**
BCPL Catonsville.
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 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
- Steering Committee | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.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

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

MAY 2025

- 5** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 13** **Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Blackboard.
Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 14** **Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 15** **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 Conni Strittmatter at cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- 21** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- Executive Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m**
Contact Joshua Stone at miaexec@mdlib.org
- 22** **Marketing Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Contact Amy Miller-Meyers at amymill@carr.org
- 26** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net