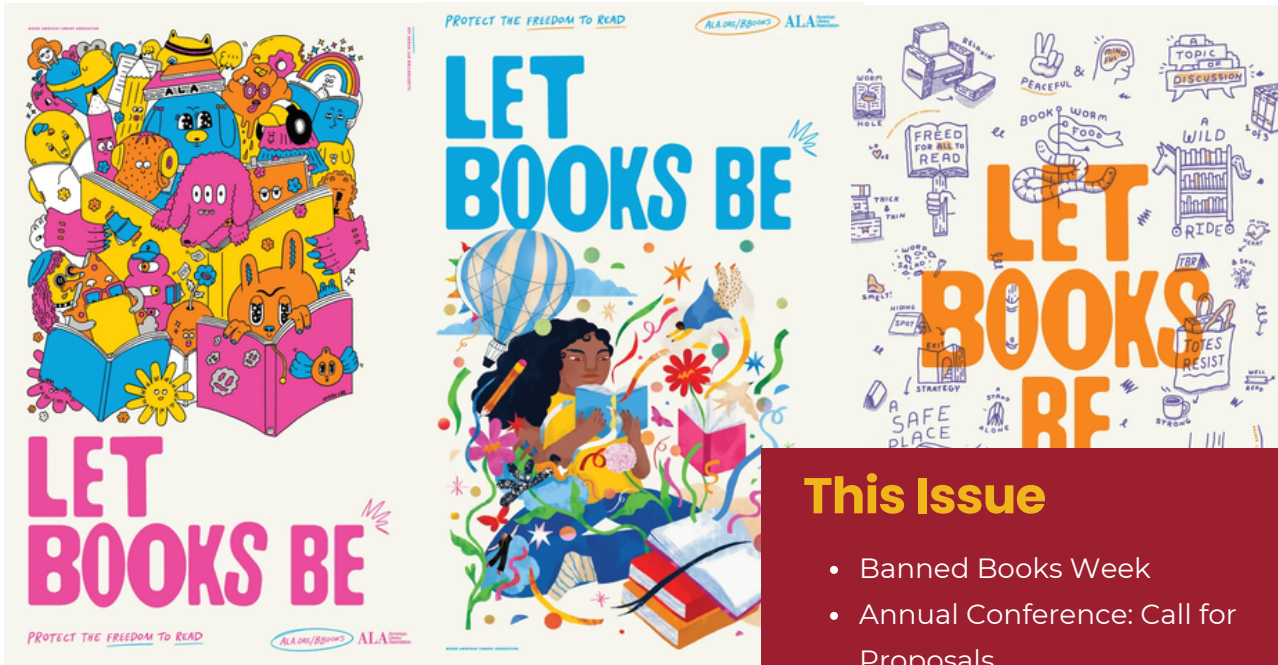




OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



This Issue

- Banned Books Week
- Annual Conference: Call for Proposals
- BEST: The Fall Edition
- MLA Nominations

LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

Hello and Happy October!

It is officially Fall, and October brings with it a litany of exciting announcements, events, and opportunities!

To begin, October 4th - 6th is the 44th annual **Banned Books Week**! Join our Intellectual Freedom Panel on October 6th via MLA Connect as they discuss oft-banned books and the importance of protecting all peoples' freedom to read!

For the Poe fans among us: MLA will be attending this year's **Poe Fest International** October 3rd - 4th. And don't forget about our **Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry (BEST): The Fall Edition** event which returns on October 15th, 2026!

Hear ye, hear ye! Do you have a passion for libraries? A cool new idea you want to share with the world? Then submit a **Program Proposal for the 2027 MLA | DLA Annual Conference**. The theme this year is: The Plot Thickens!

Finally, don't forget to submit your **nominations for various MLA leadership roles** by October 29th!

Have news you want to see shared in a future edition of The Happenings? Email us at mla@mdlib.org, and as always, thank you for your support and engagement!

Happy Fall!
The MLA Team

Banned Books Week

October 4th - 6th, 2026



The American Library Association and Banned Books Week Coalition are pleased to announce the theme for Banned Books Week 2026: “Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read.”

Banned Books Week launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of book challenges in libraries, schools, and bookstores. ALA offers a variety of free downloads, resources, and materials to support Banned Books Week activities, which are added to the ALA’s Free Downloads page as they become available > <https://bit.ly/4xEHYWY>

The Intellectual Freedom Panel Presents: Banned Books Week Discussion

Tuesday, October 6th at 3:30pm

Join IFP for an hour and a half long selection of mini-presentations on banned books!

Is there a book you love that was banned or restricted? Is there a book that was required reading when you were in school and now it's being removed or challenged? If you would like to present, please RSVP, fill out the [Banned Books Discussion Form](#), and submit your slide to Taryn Tranby via email **no later than Friday, October 2nd!**



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Are you a curious, innovative problem-solver? Do you have a passion for libraries? Do you want a chance to present your pioneering ideas to a crowd of curious listeners?

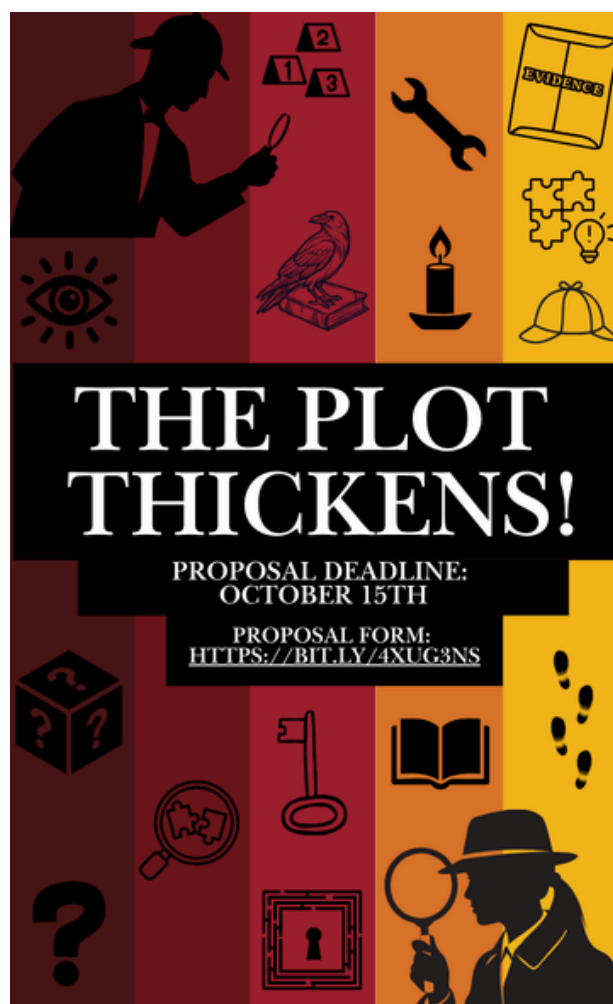
Then the MLA Conference Planning Committee wants to hear from you!

Submit a Proposal by October 15th!

Program Submission Guide >> <https://bit.ly/4dIIMUy>

Program Proposal Form >> <https://bit.ly/4xuG3nS>

Questions? Email mla@mdlib.org!



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YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:

**Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry 2026 –
The Fall Edition**

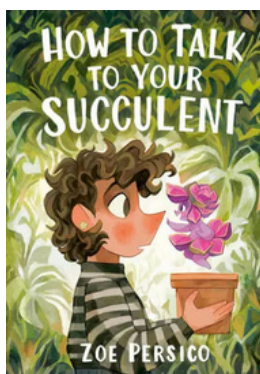
**Thursday, October 15, 2026 |
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

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

The registration deadline for this program is October 1, 2026.

Love talking about books? Join us for BEST 2026—The FALL 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 2026-2027 Juvenile Fiction nominees.

Zoe Persico, author of *How to Talk to Your Succulent*, will be our keynote speaker.

**Program Pricing:**

Members: \$30

Non-members: \$45

Student* or Retired Membership: \$15

***Note for Students:** You must have an MLA Student Membership type, or an ALA Joint Student Membership to qualify for this rate.

Please read all the titles for each group.

Group 1: Grades 3-5

- Anta, Julio, and Mendez, Gabi (illus.)—*Speak Up, Santiago!*
- Everett, Tiffany—*Diary of a Nature Nerd*
- Hirsch, Andy—*Good Boy*
- Kahn, Ben, and Brooks, Georgeo (illus.)—*Mr. Muffins: Defender of Stars*
- Mandanna, Sangu, and Ballesteros, Pablo (illus.)—*Jupiter Nettle and the Seven Schools of Magic*

Group 2: Grades 6-8

- Algarmi, Wahab—*Almost Sunset*
- Gros, Kathleen—*Carousel Summer*
- Mitchell, Dora M.—*The Puzzling Fate of Millicent Graves*
- Persico, Zoe—*How to Talk to Your Succulent*
- Wolf, Allan, and Pimienta, Jose (illus.)—*The Vanishing of Lake Peigneur: A Graphic Novel Based on a True Story*

This program has been approved for **8.5 contact hours** of continuing education for attendees.

Group discussion leaders will receive **12 contact hours!** All group discussion leaders must first register and pay as participants.

If you would like to be a group discussion leader, or if you have any questions, contact Joe Farmarco (joseph.farmarco@montgomerycountymd.gov) or Noel Knepper (nknepper@bcpl.net).

MLA FY28 Nominations!

The Maryland Library Association is now accepting nominations for officer positions for FY28 (July 2027 - June 2028)!

Interested in running for office yourself? Got questions about what running and serving is like? Know someone who would make a great leader? Send all nominations (including self-nominations) along with any questions you might have via **email to Teonja Jung** at tjung@bcpl.net by **October 29th** and become a part of writing MLA's next chapter!

MLA: Vice President / President Elect, Treasurer

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL-MD): Vice President / President Elect Secretary

Adult Services and Reference Division (ASRD): Vice President / President Elect, Secretary

Black Caucus of the Maryland Library Association (BCMLA): Vice President / President Elect

Leadership Development Division (LDD): Vice President / President Elect, Secretary

Support Staff Division (SSD): Vice President / President Elect, Secretary

Youth Services Division (YSD): Vice President / President Elect, Secretary



Halloween APPAREL

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MLA 2026 Halloween Shirt!

-  Celebrate the arrival of Fall
-  Get excited for spooky season

 Provide invaluable support to the Maryland Library Association's work of offering scholarships, defending the right to read, advocating for libraries both socially and legislatively, equipping library workers across the state with high-quality professional development opportunities, and championing the importance of libraries to communities statewide

LIMITED EDITION!

SEPTEMBER 2ND – OCTOBER 31ST

<https://www.bonfire.com/mla-halloween-2026/>

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

OCTOBER 2026

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Adult Services and Reference Division 9:30am - 12pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Melissa Lauber at mлаuber@ccplonline.org . | 5 Future of Libraries Interest Group 2:30pm - 4:30pm
<i>Online via MLA Connect</i>
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org . |
| 5 Assoc. of College & Research Libraries 2pm - 4pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu | 7 Intellectual Freedom Panel 2:30pm - 4:30pm
<i>Online via MLA Connect</i>
Contact Andrea Boothby-Rice at aboothbyrice2@washcoll.edu |
| 7 BCMLA 1pm - 2pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrarby.org . | 26 LGBTQ+ Interest Group 2pm - 3pm
<i>Online via MLA Connect</i>
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net |
| 21 Conference Committee 10am - 12pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Mike Kiel at skiel@ubalt.edu | 1 Library Advocacy Interest Group 10am - 11am
<i>Online via MLA Connect</i>
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info |
| 13 Conference Social Committee 10:30am - 11:30am
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Jo Powers at jpowers@tcfl.org . | 9 Readers Advisory Interest Group 1pm - 2:30pm
<i>Online via MLA Connect</i>
Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info |
| 28 Emerging Adult Interest Group 1pm - 2pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Tisha Chakraborty at tishac@wicomico.org . | 21 Steering Committee 1pm - 3pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact Joshua Stone mlaexec@mdlib.org |
| 15 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel 11am - 12pm
<i>Online via Zoom</i>
Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org . | 8 Support Staff Division 2pm - 4pm
<i>In person in Howard County</i>
Contact Nicole McLain at nmclain@bcpl.net |

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

OCTOBER 2026

15

Sustainability Interest Group | 3pm - 4pm

Online via MLA Connect
Contact Nicole Hance at
nhance@stmalib.org.

12

Youth Services Division | 2pm - 4pm

Online via MLA Connect
Contact Dwyn Griffin at
dwyn.griffin@pgcmls.info

Something Missing?

Is your group's meeting information in need of updating?

Does the group lead or contact information for your group need to be changed?

Are you a new group that would like your meeting and contact information listed here?

**Contact us at
mla@mdlib.org!**

ADVERTISE WITH THE MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

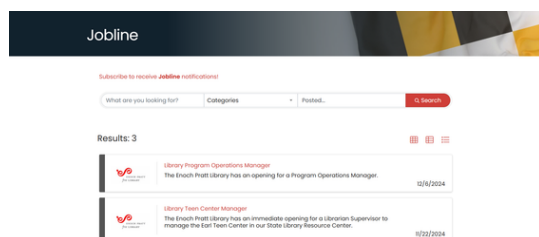
JOBLINE

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)

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\$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.