

JULY 2026 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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- 2026-27 Executive Board
- Upcoming Programs
- July & August Group Meetings
- Advertising Opportunities

LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

We know summer means full branches, packed reading programs, and not a lot of spare time, so here's a brief overview of what's on the horizon.

We're excited to welcome our newly elected 2026–27 Executive Advisory Board. Take a look inside to meet the team guiding MLA forward this year.

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 15th**, when the Youth Services Division presents *Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry 2026 — The Fall Edition*, a half-day celebration of juvenile fiction with small-group discussions and a keynote from author Zoe Persico.

Behind the scenes, MLA's committees, divisions, and interest groups are still meeting throughout July and August, keeping the wheels turning on the future of our profession. Your perspective matters to this work, and we'd love to have you join in whenever the timing works for you. Don't hesitate to reach out to the group leads to learn more about what they're working on.

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting or program.

Happy summer reading!
The MLA Office

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Ashley Teagle

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Treasurer
Cheryl Nardiello

Secretary
Paul Chasen

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Joseph Thompson

Conference Director
Stephen "Mike" Kiel

Executive Director
Joshua Stone

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Inclusion
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Intellectual Freedom
Andrea Boothby-Rice

Legislative
Liz Sundermann-Zinger

Professional
Development
Paula Maciel

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Melissa Lauber

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Rachel Miller

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Nicole McLain

Youth Services (YSD)
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Budget & Finance
Cheryl Nardiello

LTTC and MLLI
TBD

Marketing
Alyssia Gilmore

Maryland Author Award
Lisa Kenyon

Nominations & Elections
Teonja Jung

Planning & Bylaws
Paul Chasen

INTEREST GROUPS

Emerging Adults
Tisha Chakraborty

Future of Libraries
Tracy Miller

Immigrant Engagement
Ana Ndumu

Library Advocacy
Tif Sutherland

LGBTQIA+
Shannon Carney

Materials
Laura Bandoch

Outreach Services
Sabine Simonson

Readers' Advisory
Meg Faller

Sustainability
Nicole Hance

Teen
Tori George

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM PANEL PRESENTS:
Banned Books Discussion –
Unearth a Story

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 |
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

RSVP on [MLA Connect](#) (Members ONLY).

Please RSVP and submit your slide to Taryn Tranby via the Google Form on or before, Tuesday, August 4th to participate.

We'd like to cordially invite you to the next Banned Book Discussion presented by the Intellectual Freedom Panel.

The session can be found here on JunoLive for MLA and we have opened it to all MLA Members.

Join us for an hour and a half selection of mini-presentations on banned books! This session's theme is running with Summer Reading's Unearth A Story and will focus on older titles that have been restricted, suppressed, or banned in the past.

If you would like to present with us, please fill out the following form for your title:

<https://forms.gle/Z9Xum4ZNRKKHKEgp7>

Each participant will present their titles and discuss:

- Where the book was challenged and by whom
- Why the book was challenged
- Whether the challenge was upheld and the book removed or relocated
- What awards the book has won
- Whether the book is in the presenter's library collection

For the security of participants, the session will not be recorded, but a list of titles presented will be sent out after the session.

The meeting will be facilitated by Arthur LaRue and Taryn Tranby.

Program Pricing:
Free for MLA members.



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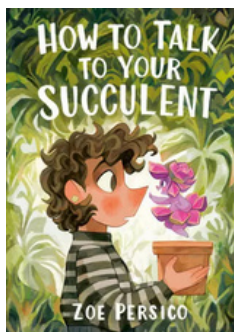
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YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:

**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).

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

JULY 2026

- 1** **BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org.
- 6** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org.
- 8** **Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect
Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org.
- 9** **Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Rachel Miller at rmiller@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.
- 15** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Mike Kiel at skiel@ubalt.edu.
- Executive Board Meeting | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org.
- 16** **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org.
- 22** **Emerging Adults Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Tisha Chakraborty at tishac@wicomico.org.
- 27** **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 2026**

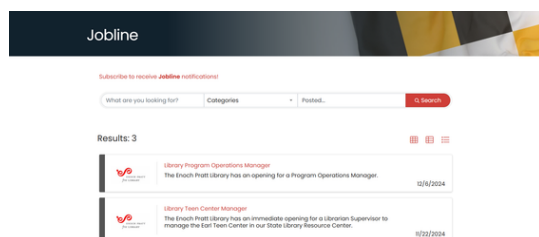
- 3** **Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- ACRL-MD | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu
- 5** **BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- 13** **Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**
Laurel Branch, PGCMLS
Contact Nicole McLain at nmclain@bcpl.net
- 19** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Mike Kiel at skiel@ubalt.edu
- 19** **Steering Committee Meeting 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 20** **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org
- 26** **Emerging Adults Interest Group | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom
Contact Tisha Chakraborty at tishac@wicomico.org
- 31** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net

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.