



SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



This Issue

- Letter from MLA
- Upcoming Programs
- 2026 MLA Halloween T-shirt
- ALA Library Card Sign-up Month

LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

Happy Fall, y'all! We have an exciting month ahead of us here at MLA.

For starters, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) is hosting two more introductory webinars on Wednesday, September 9th and Wednesday, September 23rd, and the Support Staff Division (SSD) is presenting a session on organizational change on Thursday, September 24th. This latter program has been approved for 2 contact hours of continuing education for attendees, so be sure to register by September 18th to save your spot!

We are also excited to remind everyone that on Thursday, October 15th, Youth Services brings back Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry 2026 — The Fall Edition. There will be small-group Zoom discussions on the 2026–2027 BEST nominees for upper elementary and middle school, plus a keynote from Zoe Persico, author of *How to Talk to Your Succulent*.

Next up, get excited! Spooky Season is right around the corner, and the Maryland Library Association has you covered, literally! The MLA Halloween shirt/sweatshirt fundraiser has returned for a second year!

As always, proceeds from the fundraiser help support scholarship and professional development opportunities, as well as helping to support MLA's advocacy work. The fundraiser will run from September 2nd through October 31st, so make sure you snag your limited-edition MLA Halloween apparel now (see page 5 for details)!

And as always, our wonderful committees, divisions, and interest groups are still meeting, too. If you've been thinking about getting more involved, reach out to a group lead and ask what they're up to!

Happy September!
The MLA Office

Sustainable Library Initiative Webinars

As part of our new partnership with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI), we're offering **two FREE introductory webinars** to help you understand and access the resources now available to MLA members.



Webinar: Introduction to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Monday, September 9, 2026

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Learn about the exclusive tools, resources, and methodologies that help library leaders align with the triple bottom line of sustainability: environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility.

[Register »](#)

Webinar: Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Did you know you have a 20% discount on the award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program through our new partnership? Join our webinar to explore what it means to become a certified library and the benefits of SLCP membership.

[Register »](#)

SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION PRESENTS:

How to Effectively Manage Organizational Change

**Thursday, September 24, 2026 |
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

[Register on mdlib.org.](#)

The deadline to register is September 18, 2026.

Change is a fundamental component of any organization looking to continuously improve and evolve. Everyone handles change differently. This program offers insight into how to navigate change for the organization and individuals. It will identify barriers and how to break them down.

Location:

Belmont Room at the Elkridge Branch,
Howard County Library System
6540 Washington Blvd.
Elkridge, MD 21075

This program has been approved for 2 contact hours of continuing education for attendees. Attendees must stay for the entire program to receive contact hours.

Program Pricing:

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$37.50

Student or Retired Membership:* \$12.50

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

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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).

September is **LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH**

Join us in celebrating national Library Card Sign-Up Month with our friends at the American Library Association (ALA)!



An orange t-shirt is displayed against a dark background with a white rectangular area. The t-shirt features a graphic of a green hand holding a computer monitor. The monitor displays a blue screen with white text that reads "Halloween 2026". Below the hand, there is a small pile of brown dirt. The text "HALLOWEEN 2026" is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font below the graphic.

limited
EDITION

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



 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

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

SEPTEMBER 2026

- 2 BCMLA | 1pm - 2pm**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockley@prattlibrary.org
- 3 Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30am - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom
Contact Melissa Lauber at mlauber@ccplonline.org
- 3 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10am - 11am**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- 8 Social Committee | 10:30am - 11:30am**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov
- 14 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10am - 11am**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 14 Youth Services Division | 2pm - 3pm**
Online via MLA Connect
Contact Dwyn Griffin at dwyn.griffin@pgcmls.info
- 14 ACRL-MD | 2pm -3pm**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu
- 16 Conference Committee | 10am - 12pm**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Paula Mitchell at pmitchell@prattlibrary.org
- 16 Executive Board Meeting 1pm - 3pm**
Contact Joshua Stone at miaexec@mdlib.org
- 17 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11am - 12pm**
Online via Zoom.
Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org
- 23 Emerging Adults Interest Group | 1pm - 2pm**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Stephanie Wiant at swiant@frederickcountymd.gov
- 23 Materials Interest Group | 3pm - 4pm**
Online via MLA Connect
Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 28 LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2pm - 3pm**
Online via MLA Connect
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net

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

OCTOBER 2026

- 1 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10am - 11am**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- 2 Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 2:30pm**
Online via MLA Connect
 Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 5 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10am - 11am**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 5 ACRL-MD | 2pm - 3pm**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu
- 7 BCMLA | 1pm - 2pm**
Online via Zoom
 Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockley@prattlibrary.org
- 7 Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:30pm - 4:30pm**
Online via MLA Connect
 Contact Andrea Boothby Rice at andrealeeboothby@gmail.com
- 8 Support Staff Division | 2pm - 4pm**
In-person and online via MLA Connect
 Contact Nicole McLain at nmclain@bcpl.net
- 12 Youth Services Division | 2pm - 3pm**
Online via MLA Connect
 Contact Dwyn Griffin at dwyn.griffin@pgcmls.info
- 13 Social Committee | 10:30am - 11:30am**
Online via Zoom
 Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov
- 15 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11am - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom
 Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org
- 15 Sustainability Interest Group | 3pm - 4pm**
Online via MLA Connect
 Contact Nicole Hance at nhance@stmalib.org
- 21 Conference Committee | 10am - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom
 Contact Mike Kiel at skiel@ubalt.edu
- 26 LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2pm - 3pm**
Online via MLA Connect
 Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net
- 28 Emerging Adults Interest Group | 1pm - 2pm**
Online via Zoom
 Contact Dhritisha Chakraborty at tishac@wicomico.org

ADVERTISE WITH THE MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

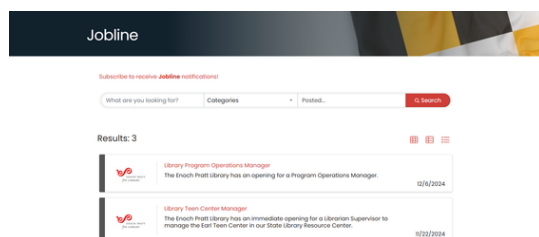
JOBLINE

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

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VENDOR DIRECTORY

Showcase your company in this exclusive directory, accessible to the public at mdlib.org and to members in the Info Hub.

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Reach a wide audience with banner ads on the Maryland Library Association website.

\$450 Large Banner Ad, 1 Year

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\$120 Small Banner Ad, 1 Year

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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.