

AUGUST 2026 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

We've got a good lineup ahead to round out the summer and fall! Here's the rundown:

One **Tuesday, August 11th**, the Intellectual Freedom Panel hosts a *Banned Books Discussion — Unearth a Story*, a run of mini-presentations on older titles that have been challenged or banned over the years, tied to this year's Summer Reading theme. It's on MLA Connect and open to any MLA member.

If you missed them the last time around, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative is hosting two more introductory webinars on **Wednesday, September 9th** and **Wednesday, September 23rd**.

Looking further out, the Support Staff Division presents a session on organizational change for **Thursday, September 24th** — what gets

in the way when things shift, and how to work through it, both individually and organization-wide.

And 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*.

Our 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 summer reading!
The MLA Office

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 on MLA Connect 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.

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).

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**Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.***Online via MLA Connect.*

Contact Andrea Boothby-Rice at

aboothbyrice2@washcoll.edu**10****Youth Services Division | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.***Online via MLA Connect.*

Contact Dwyn Griffin at

dwyn.griffin@pgcmls.info**13****Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.***Laurel Branch, PGCMML*

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**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**Sustainability Interest Group | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.***Online via MLA Connect.*

Contact Nicole Hance at

nhance@stmalib.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

Division, Caucus, Committee, Panel, and Interest Group Meetings**SEPTEMBER 2026****2****BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom.*

Contact Chelsea Shockley at

cshockle@prattlibrary.org**3****Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon***Marilyn J. Praisner (Burtonsville)**Library & Online via Zoom.*

Contact Melissa Lauber at

mlauber@ccplonline.org**Library Advocacy Interest Group |****10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.***Online via MLA Connect.*

Contact Tif Sutherland at

tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info**7****Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.***Online via Zoom*

Contact Tracy Miller at

millert@hcplonline.org**14****ACRL-MD | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom.*

Contact Gaby Messinger at

gmessinger@ubalt.edu**Youth Services Division | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.***Online via MLA Connect.*

Contact Dwyn Griffin at

dwyn.griffin@pgcmls.info**16****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.***Miller Branch, Howard County**Library System*

Contact Joshua Stone at

mlaexec@mdlib.org**17****Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom*

Contact William Wallace at

wwallace@wicomico.org**23****Emerging Adults Interest Group |****11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom*

Contact Tisha Chakraborty at

tishac@wicomico.org**Materials Interest Group |****3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.***Online via MLA Connect*

Contact Laura Bandoch at

bandoch@hcplonline.org**28****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

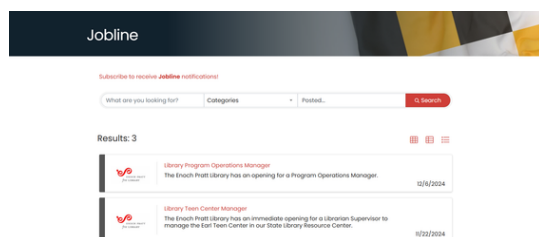
JOBLINE

Post job listings on this trusted source for library employers and job seekers, available publicly on mdlib.org.

\$500 Annual Jobline Subscription

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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

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)

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\$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.