

JUNE 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



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LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

As we transition into the warmer months ahead, we're filled with gratitude and excitement for what's next.

Thank you to the **600+** library professionals who made our recent annual conference a success. We're now looking forward to a summer filled with professional development and networking opportunities.

Mark your calendars for **The Joy of Queernorm** on June 2nd, discussing how Queernorm got started and its importance in Readers' Advisory.

MLA Chats return June 16th with an informal discussion on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Libraries.

And don't miss **Building Up Fun: Engagement for Everyone** on June 17th, featuring practical strategies to motivate library staff.

The application for Educational Grants is now live! Recipients receive up to \$500 for school or a qualified workshop or training. Learn more and apply below.

Thank you for all you do.

Warm regards,
Maryland Library Association



MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Up to \$500 for school or a qualified workshop or training for Maryland Library Association members.

! APPLY NOW

Apply by July 15 using the QR code or URL below.
bit.ly/mlagrants



RAIG PRESENTS:**The Joy of Queernorm: A Readers' Advisory Training****Monday, June 2, 2025 |****1:00 - 2:00 p.m.***Online via Zoom***[Register on mdlib.org](https://mdlib.org).**

Are you looking for fresh ways to include queer literature in your readers' advisory? You can move beyond stories where LGBTQ+ people are seen as unusual and instead explore those that present queerness as being as normal as heterosexuality.

In this training hosted by Readers' Advisory Interest Group we will discuss Queernorm (or Queer normative) fiction, how it got started, and why it is important to include in your Readers' Advisory. During the training, we will provide book talks for our favorite Queernorm titles and provide you with lots of other resources including book/author recommendations, websites, and other forms of media.

Attendees will receive 1 CEU.**Registration Pricing:****MLA Members:** \$12.50**Non-Members:** \$18.75**ALA Dual, Retired, or Student Members:** \$6.15**MLA CHATS:****Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Libraries and Library Work****Monday, June 16, 2025 |****2:00 - 3:30 p.m.***Online via Zoom***[Register on mdlib.org](https://mdlib.org).**

The EDI Panel is hosting a special MLA Chats to create an open dialog on concerns and hopes surrounding topics related to equity, diversity, and inclusion in libraries and library work. This facilitated conversation will serve as a time and space to:

1. Create a space for self-reflection and awareness
2. Develop more empathy and understanding
3. Increase open and honest communication
4. Increase sense of shared responsibility
5. Share hopes and plans for action and change

This session will be facilitated by EDI Panel members William Wallace of Wicomico Public Library and Cassie Miller of Baltimore County Public 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!

Registration Pricing:**Free to MLA Members**

SUPPORT STAFF DIVISION PRESENTS:
Building Up Fun: Engagement For Everyone

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 | 2:00 - 4:15 p.m.

*BCPL - Arbutus Branch
 855 Sulphur Spring Road
 Arbutus, MD 21227*

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

This program is geared towards leaders and administrators looking for new ways to motivate and engage their staff by adopting new icebreaker activities to encourage conversation, utilizing tips and resources to create refreshing and creative content for staff meetings, and learning how to reward staff for their excellent work.

Participants will learn how to create a “workplace playground”, thus providing opportunities to engage employees, boost morale, and optimistically reshape workplace culture.

This is an interactive training where participants will participate in icebreakers, play highly interactive games, and discuss opportunities to create committees/work teams that allows employees to thrive independently, and cohesively.

Attendees will receive 2 CEUs.

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



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

JUNE 2025

- 4** **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
- 5** **Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Pam Taylor at taylor@hcplonline.org
- Support Staff Division | 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**
Abingdon Branch of Harford County Public Library
Contact Lou Sica at lsica@bcpl.net
- Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Nicole Bega at nbega@stmalib.org
- 9** **Youth Services Division | 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 11** **MLA Leadership Orientation Day | 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Michael E. Busch Library
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 12** **Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group | 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Lisa Swain at lsswain@bcpl.net
- 18** **Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Chelsea Shockley at cshockle@prattlibrary.org
- Steering Committee Meeting | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 19** **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Conni Strittmatter at cstrittmatter@bcpl.net
- 26** **Marketing Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Amy Miller-Meyers at amymill@carr.org
- 30** **LGBTQ+ Interest Group | 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
Contact Shannon Carney at scarney@bcpl.net