

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE

THE HAPPENINGS



This Issue

- Letter from MLA
- Upcoming Programs
- September & October Meetings
- Advertising Opportunities

LETTER FROM THE MLA OFFICE STAFF

Welcome to September's edition of *The Happenings*! As we transition into fall, we're excited to share a full lineup of professional development opportunities to strengthen our collective impact on communities across our state.

This month launches our partnership with the **Sustainable Libraries Initiative**. Join our **introductory webinars on September 8th and 10th** to explore exclusive resources and learn about your 20% discount on the award-winning certification program.

Meanwhile, the call for **2026 MLA/DLA conference proposals is now open**. Our theme for this year is "Our Stories, Our Shelves."

Looking ahead to October, FOLIG presents an imaginative workshop on **"Things from Future Libraries" (October 2nd)**, where you'll transform everyday objects into visionary library artifacts. And YSD celebrates the **Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry Fall Edition (October 16th)** discussing picture books and children's nonfiction.

We're also proud to highlight the **free Dyslexia Summit on October 16th**, hosted by the Maryland Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

We hope to see you at an upcoming program this fall!

Warm regards,
Maryland Library Association

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 8, 2025
2:00 - 3:00 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 10, 2025
10:00 - 11:00 a.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 »](#)

MLA | DLA Annual Conference

May 6-8, 2026

Cambridge, Maryland

The call for program proposals is now open for the 2026 MLA|DLA Annual Conference! This year's theme **"Our Stories, Our Shelves"** celebrates the power of stories in our communities and the library collections that reflect those communities.

[Program Proposal Form »](#)

Submission Deadline:
October 17, 2025

Want to be included in planning for the Conference?

Reach out to the 2026 Conference Chair, Paula Mitchell at:

md.la.conference@gmail.com.

FOLIG PRESENTS

**Things from Future Libraries:
An Interactive Workshop**

Thursday, October 2, 2025

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

*Abingdon Library
2510 Tollgate Road
Abingdon, MD 21009*

We're taking an imaginative deep dive into the future of libraries! In this interactive workshop, you'll transform everyday objects into visionary "artifacts" from libraries yet to come.

Whatever wild future you imagine for libraries, this hands-on experience will sharpen your design-thinking, ignite your creativity, and connect you with others who are working to shape what's next for libraries.

Program Facilitator:

Tracy Miller, Branch Manager, Harford County Public Library and Chair of the Future of Libraries Interest Group

Attendees will receive 3 contact hours at the end of the event.

Program Pricing:

Members: \$25

Non-members: \$37.50

**Student, Retired, Unemployed,
or Friend:** \$12.50

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



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YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION PRESENTS:

**Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry (BEST)
2025—The Fall Edition****Thursday, October 16, 2025 |****9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Online via Zoom.

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

Love talking about books? Join us for BEST 2025—The Fall Edition, a celebration of Picture Books and Children's Nonfiction. Learn about the Black-Eyed Susan Award and participate, via Zoom, in a half day of small group discussions of some of the 2025-2026 Picture Book and Juvenile Nonfiction nominees.

Program check-in begins at 9:25am, and the program will start at 9:30am. There will be two discussion groups, meeting twice, so you can attend both sessions.

David LaRochelle, author of *Mr. Fox's Game of No!*, will be our keynote speaker.



Please read all the titles for each group.

Group 1 - Picture Books

- LaRochelle, David; Wohnoutka (illus.) —*Mr. Fox's Game of "No!"*
- Long, Loren—*The Yellow Bus*
- MacLean, Roz—*More Than Words: So Many Ways to Say What We Mean*
- Saltzberg, Barney—*A Delicious Story*
- Stead, Philip; Cordell, Matthew (illus.) —*Every Dog in the Neighborhood*

Group 2 - Grades 6-12

- Ævar Þór Benediktsson; Wilson, Anne (illus.)—*Stranded! A Mostly True Story from Iceland*
- Lanan, Jessica—*Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider*
- Larsen, Andrew; Vidal, Oriol (illus.)—*Gifts from the Garbage Truck: A True Story About the Things We (Don't) Throw Away*
- Savage, Chloe—*The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish*
- Taylor, Helen; Lewis, Stevie (illus.)—*How to Eat in Space*

This program has been approved for **4 contact hours** of continuing education for attendees. Group discussion leaders will receive **7 contact hours!** If you would like to be a group discussion leader, or if you have any questions, contact [Joe Farmarco](#) or [Noel Knepper](#).

Program Pricing:**Members:** \$30**Non-members:** \$45**Student, Retired, Unemployed,
or Friend:** \$15

Free Dyslexia Summit



**Zoom Event | October 16, 2025
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. EST**

Dyslexia is a learning difference that affects the way the brain processes written language, making reading, spelling, and writing more challenging. This lifelong condition impacts up to one in five individuals, regardless of intelligence, background, or educational opportunity. These challenges can influence academic success, workplace performance, and even everyday tasks, such as reading instructions or any written communication.

This Summit brings together leading educators and librarians serving the disability community to share the latest research and introduce new resources.

This program is free and open to the public. The Summit will be available via Zoom Webinar and livestreamed on the [Maryland State Library Agency's YouTube Channel](#).

Presentations Include:

- Comorbidities and Challenges
- Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBDP)
- Assistive Technology Showcase
- Dyslexia Strengths
- Advocacy

Find more information and register:
<https://bit.ly/DyslexiaSummit25>

Event Contact:

Ashley.Biggs1@maryland.gov

410-230-2430

lbdp.maryland.gov

If you have accessibility needs for the day of the program, we want to ensure you have a smooth and inclusive experience. Contact ashley.biggs1@maryland.gov to confirm your registration and share any specific accommodation requests.

Speakers and Sponsors



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

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 3 BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org

Legislative Panel | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Liz Sundermann at lsundermann@prattlibrary.org
- 4 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info
- 8 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org

Youth Services Division | 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 9 Conference Social Committee | 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov
- 10 Materials Interest Group | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Laura Bandoch at bandoch@hcplonline.org
- 11 Leadership Development Division | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Ana Carroll at agcarroll@bcpl.net
- 11 Adult Services and Reference Division | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon**
Sollers Point Branch of BCPL & MLA Connect
 Contact Sara Szymanski at sszymanski@carr.org

Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group | 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Sollers Point Branch of BCPL & MLA Connect
 Contact Lisa Swain at lsswain@bcpl.net
- 13-14 MLA at the Baltimore Book Festival | 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
Waverly neighborhood, Baltimore
 Contact Danielle Voelker at dvoelker@mdlib.org
- 17 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Paula Mitchell at pmitchell@prattlibrary.org

Executive Advisory Board | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Miller Branch, Howard County Library System
 Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 18 Marketing Committee | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Alyssia Gilmore at gilmore@hcplonline.org

EDI Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
 Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org
- 29 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

OCTOBER 2025

- 1 BCMLA | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Genive Purchase at gpurchase@prattlibrary.org

Intellectual Freedom Panel | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Lloyd Jansen at ljansen@ccplonline.org

Legislative Panel | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Liz Sundermann at lsundermann@prattlibrary.org
- 2 Library Advocacy Interest Group | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Tif Sutherland at tiffany.sutherland@calvertlibrary.info

Sustainability Interest Group | 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Nicole Bega at nbega@stmalib.org
- 3 Readers' Advisory Interest Group | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Meg Faller at meg.faller@calvertlibrary.info
- 4-5 MLA at the Edgar Allen Poe Festival | 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Poppleton neighborhood, Baltimore
 Contact Danielle Voelker at dvoelker@mdlib.org
- 6 Future of Libraries Interest Group | 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org
- 6 Youth Services Division | 11:30 - 2:30 p.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Karen Earp at kearp@wicomico.org
- 14 Conference Social Committee | 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Catherine Wimberley at catherine.wimberley@newcastlede.gov
- 15 Conference Committee | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Paula Mitchell at pmitchell@prattlibrary.org

Steering Committee Meeting | 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Joshua Stone at mlaexec@mdlib.org
- 16 Marketing Committee | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
Online via MLA Connect.
 Contact Alyssia Gilmore at gilmore@hcplonline.org

EDI Panel | 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom.
 Contact William Wallace at wwallace@wicomico.org
- 27 ACRL-MD | 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon**
Online via Zoom.
 Contact Gaby Messinger at gmessinger@ubalt.edu

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

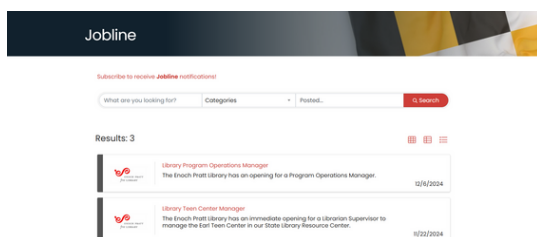
JOBLINE

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.