Poe House named Maryland’s First Literary Landmark

By Pat Hofmann

Because of a serendipitous meeting that took place at the American Library Association, Maryland will soon receive its first official Literary Landmark designation. United for Libraries’ Rocco Staino met Poe Baltimore’s Enrica Jang. Conversation ensued about how appropriate it would be to have the Poe House named Maryland’s first Literary Landmark.

A number of organizations showed interest in partnering on this project. Poe House drafted information needed for the nomination. Citizens for Maryland Libraries revised and submitted the nomination to United for Libraries. Maryland Library Association and Maryland Humanities will assist with upcoming festivities.

Should all go well, a dedication will take place on Sunday, January 19, at the Poe House on 203 North Amity Street in Baltimore. January 19 is Poe’s birthday, an excellent choice for the dedication.

The Edgar Allen Poe House is a National Historic Landmark, established in 1949 as a museum. Poe wrote some of his early stories in the tiny house on Amity Street. He lived in the house from 1833 to 1835. Poe is one of the most famous writers in the world. He is credited with inventing the detective story and murder mystery. He is also known for his tales of horror.

Some of the works he wrote at North Amity Street include: MS. Found in a Bottle, Siope. A Fable, Morella, Serenade, and To Elizabeth.

Poe left Baltimore in 1835 and moved to Richmond. The House on Amity Street was almost demolished in 1938 to build a public housing project. The Edgar Allen Poe Society of Baltimore was instrumental in preserving the home.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries is thrilled to participate in this project, the first Literary Landmark designated by United for Libraries in the State of Maryland.

Edgar Allan Poe House: Wikimedia Commons
I feel so much enthusiasm from the library supporters. I know. The board members of Citizens for Maryland Libraries are very interested in libraries and library services. It is a pleasure to attend meetings. The board members of Friends of Calvert Library support the library in every way possible, raising funds to meet library needs. They are such a great group of people. Libraries are easy to support because they do so much good in our communities. Libraries serve everyone, all ages, all races, and all income levels. For free. You can stay in a library for hours or access the library online – all are welcome!

The news will certainly keep us on our toes these days. If you are interested in politics, you can follow any number of sources to get up to date information. One person I have read about in the news lately is Greta Thunberg. Imagine being 15, demonstrating by yourself in front of the Swedish Parliament, and one year later millions are marching to support the environment, because of your influence. Greta is 16 now, and she is an inspiration to me and to millions of people around the world. I admire her greatly.

Do you wonder what we can do to help the cause of climate change? Certainly, learning about science is important. Libraries have so many books about the environment for children and adults. Anyone with children can bring them to storytimes and classes at the library. So many themes are STEM-related (science, technology, engineering and math). Libraries teach science to children of all ages. My local library even has a Storytime-To-Go kit based on an environmental theme. Libraries around the state teach STEM classes. They have maker spaces, 3D printers, and robots! The library is high tech! No wonder people are inspired at the library!

To keep a lighter footprint on the environment, there are many things you can do. Do you drive an electric car? Have you installed solar panels on your house? Do you bicycle to work? Well, I haven’t done any of those things, but I have been an organic vegetable gardener for forty years, taking care of a small piece of land. No chemicals, pesticides or herbicides. For the past two years, we have maintained honey bee hives. Greta may inspire me to do even more for the environment. How about you?

Remember, libraries count on their volunteers, Trustees, Foundation Members, and Friends to help maintain excellent services. Are you a Friend, Trustee, or member of your library Foundation? You are welcome to become more involved in your library!

Pat Hofmann
President, Citizens for Maryland Libraries
Farewell and Thanks, Mary Baykan. We Will Miss You!

With wholehearted admiration and thanks, the Maryland library community bids farewell to Mary Baykan, Director of the Washington County Free Library, who is retiring at the end of October. Baykan was hired in 1995 and very shortly thereafter was identified by her statewide colleagues as a leader and visionary for libraries. For the next 24 years, Baykan played a leadership role on the Library Legislative Panel, during which time the Maryland house and senate unanimously passed a multi-million-dollar per capita funding increase for libraries and established a $5 million per year capital projects grant for libraries. Baykan also played a key role in successfully making the case to legislators for an independent Maryland State Library agency under the Education Article.

In 2006, Baykan was named Librarian of the Year by Library Journal, in recognition of her effective leadership and achievements that significantly enhanced Maryland libraries.

Baykan convinced county commissioners and state legislators of her belief that, “if a community is looking for sustainability for economic revitalization, one of the best things a government can do to turn things around is to put a public library in the middle of it.” Retired State Delegate and Ways and Means Committee Chair, Sheila Hixson (Montgomery County) stated that Baykan, “has certainly proven to me that libraries are beyond just books.”

In Washington County, Baykan’s leadership led to the construction of beautiful contemporary libraries in Smithsburg, Boonsboro and Hancock to replace tiny, inadequate, and makeshift buildings serving as libraries, and to the construction of the Leonard P. Snyder Memorial Library, the first-ever library in Clear Spring. Baykan’s crowning achievement was the replacement of the 60’s era main library in Hagerstown with the 80,000 SF Alice Virginia and David Fletcher Branch and Western Maryland Regional Library, which opened in October 2013. The state-of-the-art library is designed to meet the diverse and ever-changing roles of the public library.

Baykan started her career on the library reference desk at the University of Houston. Prior to coming to Maryland, she was head of the City of West Palm Beach (Florida) Library. From those experiences, she developed her strong belief that libraries are “a service that goes to the heart of liberty.” Her Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Houston has served her well, as have her Master of Library Science degree from University of South Florida and Master of Business Administration from Frostburg State University.

In retirement, Baykan plans to spend time with her husband, Yalcin, and their cherished dogs, and to travel with their two daughters, Peri Baykan, assistant manager and IT whiz with the Naval Federal Credit Union in Washington, DC, and Commander Deni Baykan, US Naval Judge Advocate, USNA ’04, currently stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

*Thanks Mary and best wishes!*
The Maryland library community is very proud that Al Martin, Maryland State Library Board Chair, received the prestigious ALA Trustee Citation on June 21, at the Opening General Session of the ALA Annual Conference, Washington, DC. Established in 1941 to recognize public library Trustees for distinguished service to library development, the award symbolizes and honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 American citizens who serve on library boards.

Martin is a past president and board member of Citizens for Maryland Libraries, and is a longstanding member of the Washington County Free Library Board of Trustees, where he has served as treasurer since 2011. Prior to retirement, Martin was the finance director of the City of Hagerstown, MD for 27 years.

Through his numerous library advocacy roles, Martin has worked tirelessly testifying and garnering support for legislation and funding at the local, state and national level. Most importantly, his efforts were key to establishing the independent Maryland State Library (MSL). Martin is the first chair of the Maryland State Library Board, and in the two years since it was established, Martin has worked closely with State Librarian, Irene Padilla to create a strong independent state library agency, empowering Maryland’s public libraries to stand equally with K-12, community colleges and academic libraries in providing education for all Marylanders.

Martin’s commitment to service is not limited to the library. He serves on numerous boards, lending his energy and expertise to better his community. He served as the president of the board of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, as well as the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts Foundation. He volunteers in leadership roles with the Discovery Station Children’s Museum in Hagerstown. In 2017, in recognition of his tremendous commitment to helping his community succeed, Martin was named Washington County Business Person of the Year, by the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

In September, the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved the appointment of Anita Vassallo to the position of director of Montgomery County Public Libraries. Vassallo has served as acting director of the library system for two years. She has worked for the system for 45 years. Prior to her role as acting director, she served as public administrator for IT Infrastructure, Digital Strategies and Emerging Technology. Vassallo will oversee an annual budget of $43 million, 400 staff and 21 physical facilities providing service to a population of 1 million in Montgomery County. Congratulations Anita!
Maryland Mourns for Congressional Leader Elijah Cummings

U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings, 68, died on Thursday, October 17, due to complications from health problems. He had been a patient at Gilchrist Hospice Care.

Rep. Cummings was devoted to Baltimore, civil rights, adherence to civility and paving a way for a better future for children. In his extensive obituaries, congressional colleagues noted that he would be remembered for “preaching calm, and his frequent exhortations of ‘We are better than this!’” Senator Ben Cardin hailed Cummings as a “great orator, a great voice, a man of integrity, a man of conviction and a powerful voice for social justice.”

Cummings graduated from City College High School in Baltimore, won Phi Beta Kappa honors at Howard University and graduated from University of Maryland Law School. He passed the bar in 1976 and practiced law in Baltimore. In 1982, Cummings was elected a Maryland State Delegate. He served in the Maryland General Assembly for 14 years and became the first African-American in Maryland to be named pro tem of the House of Delegates.

In 1995, he successfully ran for the 7th Congressional District, which encompasses parts of Baltimore, Baltimore County and Howard County. He served as a member of Congress for 23 years and was the chair of the House Oversight Committee at the time of his death.

Rep. Cummings was a good friend to libraries and supported funding for libraries in Maryland and in Congress. As a child growing up in Baltimore during segregation, he experienced the library’s transformative power. “The people who helped me the most were the librarians,” Cummings told Steve Kroft in a 60 Minutes interview broadcast in January of 2019, adding that the public library was the only integrated institution in his neighborhood. He credited librarians with staying past their regular working hours to help him with his schoolwork.

Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress and former CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, said she was heartbroken by the news of his passing. “I saw first-hand the passion and honor he brought in serving his district and making sure their voices were heard in Washington. He served this nation with dignity, sincerity and compassion.”

Mary Lou Dewey Grant

Applications Accepted through Friday, January 10, 2020

CML is pleased to offer a $1,000 grant in support of a project that increases citizen awareness and involvement, and/or enhances customer service. The grant is open to Friends groups or individual members of CML. Proposals should list name and address of applicant, title of the project, timeframe, and a statement of up to 500 words describing the scope of the project and anticipated outcomes. A supporting letter from the library director is also required. Proposals should be sent to the attention of the CML Awards Committee via email at cml@citizensformarylandlibraries.org. Deadline is Friday, January 10, 2020. Individuals or groups not currently CML members may send proposals along with membership application and dues.

For more information and a list of previous grant recipients, visit: https://citizensformarylandlibraries.org/MLD
Annual CML/Trustees Meeting

CML is pleased to be partnering with the Maryland State Library to present the Annual CML/Trustees Meeting at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and State Library Resource Center, which has just completed a massive, multi-year $115 million renovation, with detailed attention to historic preservation, restoring the magnificent features of the iconic library built in 1933, while effectively addressing new service demands.

The Annual Meeting begins with a state of libraries report from Maryland State Librarian, Irene Padilla, followed by a panel of distinguished keynote speakers from award winning libraries on the changing roles of libraries.

A brief CML Annual Business Meeting will be followed by lunch and tours of the magnificently renovated Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Guest Speakers:
- Heidi Daniel, CEO/President, Enoch Pratt Free Library
- John Szabo, City Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library (subject of Susan Orlean’s bestselling The Library Book)
- Siobhan Reardon, President and Director, Free Library of Philadelphia
- Mary Baykan, Director, Washington County Free Library (Baykan will moderate a panel discussion following the presentations, bring rural library perspective, and handle audience Q&A)

Saturday, October 26
9:15 AM–3:00 PM
Enoch Pratt Free Library

Chapter Advocacy Exchange

On June 6, 2019, two CML board members, Pat Hofmann and Joe Thompson, presented a webinar for United for Libraries. Pat represented Citizens for Maryland Libraries. Joe represented Maryland Library Association. They were joined by Skip Dye, representing the Delaware Library Association. The webinar was one in a series called Chapter Advocacy Exchange. The title was Empowering Trustees and Friends to Advocate Alongside Librarians.

Skip’s section, “What if Every Community Leader Advocated for Libraries?” Included information about the E’s of Libraries. The E’s he spoke about were education, employment, entrepreneurship, empowerment, and engagement. All of these E words define a segment of library services.

Joe spoke about the ways the Maryland Library Association is involved with advocacy. He described the work of the Legislative Panel, what it has accomplished in the past and what it does at this time. He noted who is involved and talked about communication between directors, trustees, foundation members, and friends.

Pat spoke about how our many library-related organizations work together in the state. CML was created when library directors recognized the need to have citizens work along to advocate for strong libraries. CML concentrates on education, advocacy, and recognition. CML is a partner for the annual Library Legislative Day, an entire day spent communicating with elected officials in Annapolis.

View the entire presentation: http://www.ala.org/advocacy/chapter-advocacy-exchange
Call for Award Nominations: CML Awards 2020

Each year CML presents three prestigious awards. Nominations are now being sought for 2020 award recipients for:

- The Marion Satterthwaite Award in recognition of outstanding advocacy efforts for libraries.
- The Davis McCarn Award for innovative use of technology to enhance library service.
- The Outstanding Library Employee Award to recognize a library staff member who has made exceptional contributions to public service.

Deadline for award nominations is Friday, January 10, 2020. Please submit a nomination that includes name of the award, name of nominee, and a statement of up to 500 words describing the achievements of the nominee that has led to improving library service in Maryland. Nominations should be sent to the attention of the CML Awards Committee via email at cml@citizensformarylandlibraries.org. Award recipients receive a plaque and a check for $100. The Satterthwaite and McCarn Awards are presented at the MLA Annual Conference. CML will cover cost of one night at the conference hotel (if reimbursement is not provided by another organization) and tickets for two at a Conference dinner/banquet (if reimbursement is not provided by another organization). The award recipients will also be announced at the CML Annual Meeting and publicized in the CML newsletter. The Outstanding Employee Award is also announced at the Maryland Legislative Day Reception in Annapolis. CML will also present the award at the recipient’s library board meeting.

In 2019, awards were presented as follows:

Kristen Pironis received the Marion Satterthwaite Award for outstanding advocacy for her work as a member of the CML Board and as a trustee on the board of Queen Anne’s County Library.

The Digital Curation Innovation Center at the College of Information Studies (iSchool), University of Maryland received the McCarn Award for its work to generate new forms of historical research, while pioneering advances in computational research of archival and cultural content.

Outstanding Employee Awards were given to Cheryl Nardiello of Wicomico Public Libraries and Christine Kamt of Baltimore County Public Library in recognition of their exceptional work.

For more information on the awards and for a complete list of award winners, visit: https://citizensformarylandlibraries.org/.

Maryland STEM Festival

Hundreds of events throughout Maryland will be offered as part of the Maryland STEM Festival. Now in its 5th year, the STEM Festival seeks to engage the community in science, technology, engineering and math and to encourage young learners to pursue education in a STEM-related field. Libraries are major partners in providing STEM activities during the festival. In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing, the theme of the 2019 Festival is Space & Flight.

For a complete listing of STEM Festival Activities, visit: https://marylandstemfestival.org/
Capital Grants Project Program Continues to Enhance Maryland Public Libraries

The Board of Public Works approved the Maryland State Library’s recommendation to issue nine grants in 2020 to county public library systems totaling $5,000,000. The grants support library projects in the following counties: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Queen Anne’s, and Worcester. The grants must be matched by local funding according to a wealth-based cost sharing formula.

Two previously funded Capital Grant projects coming to fruition are:

• The Leonardtown Library and Garvey Senior Activity Center in St. Mary’s County. The combined library/senior center is anticipated to open in March 2020.
• The Myersville Community Library in Frederick County, which opened in August 2019.
Washington College Launches Chesapeake Heartland Project in Kent County

Washington College's new community history initiative, *Chesapeake Heartland: An African American Humanities Project*, has received an $800,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, an $89,000 grant from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and a $100,000 gift from a private family foundation. Developed at the college’s Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, the goal of the three-year project is to digitize, share, and curate more than three centuries of African American history. This innovative project collaborates with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), whose Community Curation Project will travel to Kent County in 2020 and give county residents unprecedented resources to preserve their history, ranging from family photographs and letters to recordings of oral histories and musical performances.

The Starr Center, along with its three primary community partners, Sumner Hall, the Kent County Arts Council and the Kent County Public Library, will work collaboratively to empower individuals and local organizations to collect, share and interpret the history of their own families and communities.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant will fund a “Chesapeake Heartland African American Humanities Truck” that will serve the county as a mobile oral-history studio, digitization station, and flexible exhibition space. Through its Robert Frederick Smith Fund for the Digital Preservation and Curation of African American History, NMAAHC’s Community Curation program will host public lectures, genealogy workshops, and digitization events in Kent County.

Chesapeake Heartland recognizes the Chesapeake region as a heartland of African American history and culture. African Americans arrived in Kent County in the mid-1600s, and their descendants fought for freedom in the American Revolution and Civil War, played leading roles in the abolitionist movement and the Underground Railroad, marched in the 1960s Civil Rights era protests, and carried rich artistic and cultural traditions through the generations.

In preparation for the project, Washington College students have been interning at the NMAAHC, conducting oral histories, transcribing and digitizing courthouse records, and assessing archival collections. They have also met with dozens of local leaders to learn how the project can best serve community needs, identifying a range of goals for Chesapeake Heartland including providing paid work opportunities for local youth, supporting local schools, fostering cross-generational dialogue, building the capacity of local nonprofits, strengthening relationships with Washington College, and bridging persistent ethnic and socioeconomic divides.

To find out more about Washington College’s Chesapeake Heartland Program, visit: [https://www.washcoll.edu/live/news/12174-big-grant-for-heartland](https://www.washcoll.edu/live/news/12174-big-grant-for-heartland)

To find out more about the Smithsonian’s Community Curation Project, visit: [https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/family-history-center/community-curation-program](https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/family-history-center/community-curation-program)
For the second year in a row, the collaborative Maryland Libraries Booth won the Best Booth Award at the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference. The star of the booth was Pepper, a humanoid robot funded by the Maryland State Library for Exploration Commons @ 50 East Maker Space in Carroll County.

The summer 2019 theme Winds of Change focused on the changes being seen at every level of government and constituent services and how counties are harnessing that momentum for the good of all Marylanders. Topics included transforming approaches to economic trends, climate change, land use, millennials in the workforce, and education, among many others.

Photos left to right, top to bottom: Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh says hello to Pepper the Robot; Governor Larry Hogan meets Pepper; Carroll County Public Library Director of Public Services Joe Thompson, State Librarian Irene Padilla, Cecil County Library Director Morgan Miller, Senator Ben Cardin, and Carroll County Public Library Director Andrea Berstler; CML President Pat Hofmann; a young girl interacts with Pepper; Governor Hogan Visits MACo Exhibition Floor. Photo credit Steve Kwak.
Maryland Library Association Reacts to eBook Sales Restrictions on Libraries Proposed by Macmillan Publishers

Maryland Library Association(MLA) President, Andrea Berstler announced that on October 10, 2019, the MLA Executive Board approved the following resolution in response to Macmillan Publishers’ proposed change in ebooks sales to libraries effective November 1, 2019; limiting to one copy for the first 8 weeks. Should this be implemented, it would allow for one copy to be purchased for the entire Maryland Digital elibrary Consortium (which serves all public libraries except Prince George’s County). MLA encourages Maryland libraries, staff, customers, members, and friends to express their opposition to this policy change. Go to ebooksforall.org to sign a petition to Macmillan CEO John Sargent to cancel this embargo.

A Resolution on Ebook Sales Restrictions from the Maryland Library Association

WHEREAS, Maryland’s public libraries currently serve more than 3,600,000 cardholders; and
WHEREAS, the continued commitment to a high quality of services and ease of access places Maryland as a leader for libraries nationwide; and
WHEREAS, millions of Marylanders, including students, now use digital content as their preferred or only access to books, music, and movies; and
WHEREAS, information and content must be accessible to all people, in all available formats, regardless of their personal income or physical ability or reading ability; and
WHEREAS, Marylanders downloaded more than 3,690,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks in 2018 from public libraries across the state; and
WHEREAS, the U.S. publishing industry earned $25.83 billion in revenue in 2018, with downloaded audio experiencing 28.7% growth over 2017; and
WHEREAS, major publisher Macmillan, has recently announced their intention to implement restrictive purchasing policies for eBooks that directly and severely impact the ability of Maryland’s public libraries to provide equality of access to materials and information by requiring all public libraries to share a single digital copy among 6 million citizens.
WHEREAS, Macmillan CEO John Sargent accuses libraries of “cannibalizing” sales and actively “marketing…to turn purchasers into borrowers.”
WHEREAS, taxpayer supported public libraries spent millions of dollars in 2018 on eBooks and eAudiobooks; and
WHEREAS, these new policies place a significant and undue burden on both institutions and individuals, while further broadening the digital divide between those who can and those who cannot afford digital access.
WHEREAS, these arbitrary limitations make it impossible for libraries to fulfill their central mission of ensuring equal access to information for all, regardless of socioeconomic status; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED on this day October 10, 2019, that we, the members of the Maryland Library Association, call upon publishers, specifically Macmillan, to reconsider the announced restrictive and onerous policies and engage in a meaningful and direct dialogue with libraries, library consortia, library associations, authors, and other relevant stakeholders for the purpose of creating new policies that ensure equitable access to all of Maryland’s citizens.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the American Library Association’s position of opposition of any sales model or policy that imposes arbitrary limitations that undermine libraries’ abilities to serve their communities.
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 1, 2019
Conference on Inclusion and Diversity in Library & Information Science and presentation of the James Partridge Outstanding African American Information Professional Award (in partnership with CML), Nyumburu Cultural Center at the University of Maryland, College Park, 9:00–4:00 PM. For more information and to register for this free event go to: http://cidlis.umd.edu

NOVEMBER 2-5, 2019

JANUARY 24-28, 2020

FEBRUARY 5, 2020
Maryland Library Legislative Day, Annapolis, MD. Reception: 5:30–7:30 PM.

FEBRUARY 25-29, 2020
PLA Conference, Nashville, TN. http://www.alapl.org/pla/education/conferences

APRIL 19-25, 2020

MAY 4-5, 2020

MAY 6-8, 2020
MLA/DLA Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Chesapeake, Cambridge, MD. https://www.mdlib.org/

JUNE 25-30, 2020
ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. http://www.alapl.org/conferencesevents/american-library-association-annual-conference-6

Membership Application

Yes, I want to join Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) and continue to work for the best possible library service for all the people of Maryland.

Name ________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State _________________ Zip _________________

Telephone ____________________________ FAX ____________________________ Email ____________________________

Annual Memberships: ❑ Individual $25 ❑ Benefactor $100 ❑ Friends Group $50

I would like to contribute $_____ to support: ❑ Mary Lou Dewey Library Advocacy Fund ❑ James Partridge Award ❑ Nettie B. Taylor Leadership Fund

Mail to:

Citizens for Maryland Libraries
1100 Green Valley Road
New Windsor, MD 21776

https://citizensformarylandlibraries.org

CML is a 501c3 organization. Membership dues are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to CML.