Maryland Day by Day
Family Literacy Activity Forever Calendar

The Family Literacy Activity Forever Calendar is an example of the excellent work coming out of the Maryland State Library (MSL). The Calendar project was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services. It was printed in 2019, and more than 40,000 copies were distributed widely to families through their local public library.

The Calendar is chock-full of activities for families to pursue. It includes a page of tips on using the calendar and on reading aloud to early learners. Each month features a theme-based illustration with suggested books related to the theme. Each date offers an engaging activity for children and parents to share. Built into each month’s illustration is a Seek & Find activity to challenge the viewer’s attention to detail.

MSL contracted with the Carroll County Public Library to design the Calendar. To view the fabulous calendar online or download a pdf, go to daybydaymd.org/.

The artwork was created by children’s book author and illustrator, Marcia Leiter. She has created a picture book series featuring Sweet Pea, String Bean, multitudes of mice and other creatures. She lives in Carroll County, Maryland surrounded by a green garden filled with trees, flowers, rabbits, butterflies, birds, and the occasional snake or fox. Her books can be found at your local library. Learn more about Marcia’s books at birdberrypress.com/.

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SHARE YOUR STORY!
Do you have a story suggestion for the next issue of The Citizen? Does your library have an event or activity you would like The Citizen to cover? If so, please email your ideas to Lynn Wheeler at: l wheeler@carr.org

THE CITIZEN
PRESIDENT
Pat Hofmann
EDITOR
Lynn Wheeler
DESIGN
Carroll County Public Library Communications Department
Message from the President

It is hard to believe that this will be my last column for The Citizen as president of Citizens for Maryland Libraries. I have been involved with the organization as a board member or officer for seven years. It has been a joy and an honor to work with CML. The board is comprised of an amazing group of kind, dedicated people, library lovers like me.

Everyone is proud of their library for the work they have done over the past several months to continue to provide service to the public. It wasn't an easy pivot, I am sure, and staff had a learning curve. But what a wonderful job they did to serve people. I was thrilled when they started curbside pickup. They enhanced that by providing grab bags of books – what fun – and personalized reading suggestions. Now, for a few weeks, the library has been open to the public. I continue to receive my books by curbside pickup as I am very cautious.

Libraries all over the state are offering Zoom discussions, events and programs for people of all ages. Storytime by Zoom. Teen/Tween events by Zoom. Book discussions and author events by Zoom. Libraries are partnering with other library systems and organizations to present well known authors like Ibram X. Kendi (How to be an Antiracist) and One Maryland One Book author Lisa See (Island of Sea Women.) These events have provided new ideas and thoughts to help us keep sharp as we quarantine.

Just like libraries, CML has continued to move forward during the pandemic. We have met over Zoom, have continued a robust awards program, and have planned the CML/State Library Conference. We continue to meet with the Maryland Library Legislative Panel to assist in any way we can. To keep things interesting, we completed a new strategic plan. We will elect new officers and make appointments to the board this month. Even though we don't see each other in person, we enjoy seeing each other over Zoom.

I hope you have found entertaining and rewarding activities during the pandemic. We had an almost weed-free garden this year. And lots of produce – onions, tomatoes, beans and more. We are in suspense over the sweet potatoes – they will be wonderful or awful – hoping for wonderful! I am still spending time outside every day I can because it makes me feel healthy and happy. And there are always more weeds to pull. We also have bees and the girls made seven pounds of honey for us this year. And I finally got two kittens, something I have wanted to do for a long time. They came from the Feral Cat Rescue of Southern Maryland. Their names are Sage and Saffron and they bring a lot of joy to the house.

Reading through this column, I realized that we do adapt. I think we are more resilient than we ever imagined. I'd like to thank the board and executive director Lynn Wheeler for their dedication and fabulous work for CML. They provide such positive energy to our organization. Thank you for all you do on behalf of libraries.

After my term as President is over, I will be sitting under my own vine and fig tree, contemplating the state of our nation. (We do have a fig tree, but no vines.)

Pat Hofmann
President, Citizens for Maryland Libraries
Citizens for Maryland Libraries in partnership with the Maryland State Library is pleased to present the 2020 Annual Conference for Friends, Trustees, and Library Supporters on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, featuring three speakers.

Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress
In 2016, Dr. Hayden was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the 14th Librarian of Congress. In that role, she has spotlighted the treasures of the Library of Congress for all people to enjoy, and has harnessed the power of technology to increase access to the library’s vast holdings.

Dr. Hayden was the CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library from 1993 to 2016, where she led a major transformation in buildings, services and technology.

She graduated from Chicago's Roosevelt University and received her Masters and Doctorate at University of Chicago Graduate Library School. She started her career as a Children's Librarian at Chicago Public Library and then served as the Library Services Coordinator at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. In the late 1980s, she went to the University of Pittsburgh as Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science. In 1991, she returned to Chicago Public Library as the First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Librarian. In 1993, she was simultaneously offered director positions at two major library systems. The Maryland library community is delighted that she chose Baltimore. In 1995, she was named Librarian of the Year by Library Journal and was recognized as one of Maryland's 100 Top Women in 1996.

Dr. Hayden served as President of the American Library Association in 2003, where she was in the forefront of the debate over the US Patriot Act, and vigorously spoke for the protection of reading records and equity of access. Dr. Hayden is the recipient of many honorary degrees and medals. In 2003, she was named Woman of the Year by Ms. Magazine. During the 2015 protests following the death of Freddie Gray, Dr. Hayden kept the libraries open. They were a much needed place of respite, relief and opportunity.

In 2010, President Obama nominated Dr. Hayden for the National Museum and Library Services Board and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Board. Dr. Hayden is the first woman and the first African American to hold the post of Librarian of Congress. She is also the first professional librarian to hold the post in over 60 years.

Julius C. Jefferson, Jr. is the 2020-2021 President of the American Library Association. He has served in many roles at ALA, including Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. He also served as President of the Freedom To Read Foundation, an American non-profit anti-censorship organization established by ALA.

Mr. Jefferson is the Section Head of the Research and Library Services Section in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division at Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. In this role, he leads research librarians who provide public policy research assistance exclusively to Members of Congress, Congressional Committees and Staffers.

Mr. Jefferson received his BA degree in history from Howard University and his MLS from the University of Maryland.

Irene Padilla, Maryland State Librarian will provide an overview of activities in Maryland libraries. Under Ms. Padilla’s leadership, the Maryland State Library has very effectively administered State and Federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The Maryland State Library oversees, and she and her staff work tirelessly to support the work of the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, Maryland’s Public Libraries, the State Library Network, the Library Capital Grants Programs, and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

MSL used LSTA funds to support a shared statewide program coordinated by Prince George's County Memorial Library System, “An Evening with Ibram X. Kendi”. The virtual event was a rousing success, and more than 348,420 people attended “live” or watched the one hour program on YouTube.
Call for 2021 CML Award Nominations

Each year CML presents three prestigious awards. Nominations are now being sought for 2021 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 (or team) who has made exceptional contributions to public service either directly or in a supporting role.

The deadline for award nominations is Friday, January 8, 2021. 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 have 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 in the amount of $100. The Satterthwaite and McCarn Awards have historically been presented at the MLA Annual Conference. CML will cover the 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.

CML will present the Outstanding Employee award at the recipient’s local library board meeting. Award recipients will also be announced at the CML Annual Meeting and publicized in the CML newsletter.

Mary Lou Dewey Grant

The Friends of Queen Anne’s County Library receives 2020 Dewey Grant

CML is pleased to announce that The Friends of Queen Anne’s County Library has been awarded the Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy & Awareness Grant in 2020. The Friends will receive a $1,000 grant to support the launch of the Storytime on Wheels for Adults program, designed to increase access to library programs and resources for the differently abled adult population within Queen Anne’s County. The library staff and Friends recognize the logistical and physical challenges many differently abled adults face in trying to visit the library. The MLD Grant will allow for the purchase of materials to create themed kits that trained volunteers can take into nursing homes, rehab centers, adult day care centers and other places serving the target audience. Kits will include books and stories, sensory items, and takeaway crafts to engage the audience.

Mary Lou Dewey Grant Applications Sought

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 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 CML Awards Committee via email at cml@citizensformarylandlibraries.org. Deadline is Friday, January 8, 2021. 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: citizensformarylandlibraries.org/MLD
Marion Satterthwaite Award

Kathleen Campanella is a lifelong champion for public library service in Maryland. She served as a member of the Carroll County Public Library Board of Trustees over three decades, including serving multiple terms as Board president and working with four executive directors.

Ms. Campanella was a poised, enthusiastic and eloquent spokesperson for library services and helped the library forge effective partnerships in the community and in Maryland. During her tenure, the library system undertook numerous renovation and new building projects. She was a repeated donor to capital campaigns and an effective advocate for library capital and operating budgets. Her testimony and letters of support successfully led to numerous state capital grants to improve library facilities, and program grants that enabled CCPL to develop new initiatives, many serving as model programs for the state.

Under her leadership, the Carroll County Public Library started a Friends group. Ms. Campanella was supportive of Statewide library organizations and activities.

Patricia Hofmann served as director of Calvert Library for 15 years before retiring in 2013. During her tenure as director, she was a very active member of the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators. Working with the Maryland State Librarian, Ms. Hofmann presided over the Library Associate Training Institute Task Force that re-imagined and redesigned this critically important training program to prepare library staff for success in the 21st Century.

Following her retirement, Ms. Hofmann served as the ALA Councilor for the Maryland Library Association for three years. She received the prestigious MLA Outstanding Member Award in 2015.

In 2019, Ms. Hofmann joined the American Library Association’s United for Libraries Board, where she learned about ALAs Literary Landmarks Program. She brought together a team to apply for Literary Landmark designation for the Poe House in Baltimore. The application was successful and on January 19, 2020 the first Literary Landmark in Maryland was unveiled on 203 N. Amity Street, in a festive celebration held on Edgar Allen Poe’s 111th birthday.

Ms. Hofmann is still active on the Friends of Calvert Library Board. She established and writes the questions for the Board’s popular semi-annual Trivia Contest fundraising event, now in its fifth year. Always active in her community, Ms. Hofmann is also an advisor to the American Chestnut Land Trust and is active in the League of Women Voters.

Ms. Hofmann joined the CML Board in 2013. She served as the liaison to the Maryland Library Association’s Legislative Panel and has testified many times on legislation of critical importance to libraries. She also has served as vice president and in completing her second year as president.

We are thankful for Ms. Hofmann’s long-standing service and significant achievements that have enhanced library service in Maryland.
Outstanding Employee Awards 2020

Terri Benney
Queen Anne’s County Library

Ms. Salazar notes, “Terri makes everyone feel comfortable and has a great talent for being able to find the books our customers like. She connects with everyone who visits our library and has a real affinity with those she only interacts with through the phone and books by mail. The customers ask for her by name.”

Shauna Beulah
Talbot County Free Library

In her letter of nomination, Dana Newman extolled Ms. Beulah’s strong commitment and passion toward inclusion, partnerships and excellent customer service. Numerous tributes to Ms. Beulah’s leadership from customers and staff note her love of people, books and learning. Ms. Beulah reaches out to the community to find ways to amplify the library’s capacity to serve. She often goes to the St. Michaels Community Center to share information about library technology and resources. She has initiated significant outreach with Tilghman Island organizations including the Area Youth Association, the Waterman’s Museum, the Fire Department and Tilghman Elementary School to ensure that community benefits from library services and programs. She lead a library initiative to take mobile lab technology, such as 3D printing to locations serving youth and seniors.

Ms. Beulah has served as a board member on numerous community organizations including the Talbot County Arts Council. She is a longtime member of the St. Michaels Rotary Club and has helped organize many community events, including the Multicultural Festival.

Shauna Beulah
Talbot County Free Library

In her letter of nomination, Director, Janet Salazar highlighted Terri Benney’s superb customer service and community outreach efforts over her 40 years of work for the library, including her many years of service on the bookmobile, her work coordinating the Books by Mail and Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiatives.

Ms. Salazar notes, “Terri makes everyone feel comfortable and has a great talent for being able to find the books our customers like. She connects with everyone who visits our library and has a real affinity with those she only interacts with through the phone and books by mail. The customers ask for her by name.”

Shauna Beulah
Talbot County Free Library

In her letter of nomination, Executive Director Ashley Teagle states that Ms. Cannady is a true library and community advocate, continuously seeking opportunities to create a welcoming environment for all customers.

Ms. Cannady grew up in San Domingo, a historic Black community near Sharptown, MD. She graduated from Morgan State University with a B.S. in Biology in 1980, and was hired by Baltimore County Library, where she completed the Library Associate Training Program. In 1987, she moved back to the Eastern Shore and was hired by Wicomico Public Library as the Circulation Manager. Her first duty was to automate circulation services. In 2019, she was promoted to Branch Manager for the Downtown library.

Bernadette Cannady
Wicomico Public Libraries

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Outstanding Employee Awards 2020

Levi Branson, Circulation Services Supervisor at the C. Burr Artz Public Library in Frederick, was nominated by Branch Administrator, Beth Heltebridle for his efforts to facilitate a major culture change at the library, where service is personalized, staff are able to make decisions about their daily work, and customers and staff alike feel important and heard. Ms. Heltebridle noted Mr. Branson’s skills at relationship building and his willingness to take on challenges. He can often be heard recommending that staff “walk toward the fire” to gain confidence in handling difficult situations. He developed and presented a systemwide training workshop for staff on “Setting Boundaries with Kindness.”

Mr. Branson joined the staff of Frederick County Public Libraries in 2017, as an adult services librarian. He says that it was the desire to serve a large customer base at a forward-thinking organization that drove him to pursue a position with FCPL. As an adult librarian, Mr. Branson arranged programming and instituted a new library volunteer program. In 2018, he was promoted to circulation service supervisor, where he manages a team of 14 in addition to a shelving department. Through team building, collaboration and finding opportunities for fun, the circulation team has instituted service changes, process adjustments, and a stronger sense of responsibility to one another and the community served by the library.

At the MLA/DLA 2019 Annual conference, Mr. Branson co-presented a session on facilitating culture change and gave an Ignite Talk about instituting librarian-in-charge procedures.

When notified of this award, Mr. Branson said, “I’m grateful for this recognition but am proud to share the honor with the team and organization that invited me in, welcomed my contributions, and who work hard every day to honor our shared mission and provide the community we serve with the best possible public library.” Mr. Branson received his MLIS from Dominican University in Illinois in 2014 and worked in Loudoun County Public Libraries before coming to Maryland. In 2016, he was awarded the 2016 VLA Professional Associates Award.

The awards will be presented at a local Board meeting or other event determined by the local library system. These awardees epitomize the dedicated staff working hard to re-imagine library service to meet the evolving needs of the communities in Maryland.

Levi Branson
Frederick County Public Libraries

Young Adult Services Team
Cecil County Public Library

Comprising the Young Adult Services team, Anita Delp, Elizabeth Drummond, Elizabeth Mayer, Alysia Van Looy and Ida Zago have been empowering teens through leadership development and community engagement opportunities that allow teens to fully participate as citizens in their community. The YA Team created a Teen Advisory Board where high school students serve as mentors for younger peers, and. The Team recently launched “Teens Give Back” where teens work with local organizations to plan and conduct service projects. In the first year, teens made homemade beds, treats and toys for Cecil County Animal Services, care packages for a local homeless shelter, and pillows, blankets and wheelchair bags for residents of the Perry Point Veteran’s Hospital.

The Team annually implements “Start-Up Cecil,” an entrepreneurship event where teens are connected to community business leaders who mentor them in developing and pitching business plans. To date, the Team has helped teens develop nearly 100 business plans.

CCPL’s YA Team approaches after-school and summer hours as a window of opportunity for engaging and inspiring teens, and hosting technology programs including computer programming and robotics. The Team is highly intentional in developing these programs, ensuring they serve a dual purpose of keeping teens motivated and engaged while preparing them to succeed in a technology-rich future and connecting them with community partners who can help grow their interests into a career. With support from Northrop Grumman, the YA Team developed a summer program series that incorporated NASA learning curriculum for 50 middle school age students.

In partnership with Cecil County Public Schools, the Team annually implements the SPARK program – Students Progress and Achieve with Reading Kits – where teens are provided the opportunity to select books to read, keep and share. Last year 4900 books were given to sixth grade students.

In her letter of nomination, director Morgan Miller wrote, “CCPL’s mission is to Champion Reading, Build Knowledge, and Inspire Curiosity. Through the efforts of this dedicated team of professionals who provide opportunities for teens to explore, grow and create in environments that are welcoming and inclusive, CCPL’s Young Adult Services Team lives our mission. Every day they are changing outcomes by giving teens in our community the best shot at a great future.”
Caroline County Public Library Partnership with the Arts

In Caroline County, the public library is not only a resource for books, media, information, computers and children's storytimes, but it is the best source for entertainment within the county. Through the library's partnership with Caroline County Council of Arts, exciting performing arts events are presented in the library meeting rooms, which are designed to become a stage and audience seating area when opened together.*

Three distinct annual events offer diversion to the public. In the fall, a Literary Evening is presented which includes a dramatic portrayal of a famous author, a guest lecture by a scholar and dinner. In 2019, the featured author was Arthur Conan Doyle, of Sherlock Holmes fame. In past years, authors have included J. R. R. Tolkien, Agatha Christie and Mark Twain.

In the winter, a Friday Nites in Caroline series of five to seven concerts includes musicians from the Maryland State Arts Council Touring Roster, as well as locally popular groups. The entire series is free of charge. Offerings vary from year to year and frequently include jazz, bluegrass, rock and folk music.

The newest annual event is a Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre. In February, 2020, the third mystery presented was "The Wedding From Hell" by Eileen Moushey. Audience members interacted with the actors and have an opportunity to figure out "whodunit". Although there is always a murder, these scripts offer many opportunities for laughter.

Astute customers of the Library keep an eye on its offerings so as not to miss these quality events close at hand.

Outstanding Employee Awards 2020

Tara Hill-Coursey
Caroline County Public Library

In the six years that Tara Hill-Coursey has worked at the Caroline County Public Library, she has continually enhanced the library’s impact on the community through her skills at building connections and partnerships. As the Community Engagement Manager, Ms. Hill-Coursey capitalizes on her connections with community leaders to bring unique programs which both educate and entertain. These include a program panel with mental health experts to watch and discuss the film Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope, and a six-week African Dance series which offered the opportunity to learn.

Ms. Hill-Coursey is a key member of the library’s Choose Civility Team. In that role, she coordinated assemblies at local schools that improved dialog around citizenship and cyberbullying. In partnership with Caroline County Public Schools, she provided vital support for a poster contest with the Choose Civility Theme for students in grades K-12. This culminated in a community art show and awards ceremony.

Ms. Hill-Coursey organized the 3rd Annual Multi-Cultural Festival at the Greensboro Branch. The families at the well-attended event expressed gratitude for the opportunity to experience this free event in their small town. She also organized Caroline County’s first “Kwanzaa in Caroline: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture.”

Ms. Hill-Coursey was recently appointed to the Board of the Caroline County Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the Tourism Board, the Caroline Complete Count Committee, the Eastern Shore Mental Health Association, and the Board of Education’s Equity and Excellence in Education Committee.

In her letter of nomination, CCPL Executive Director Debby Bennett stated, “Tara exemplifies the type of embedded librarianship that is essential to providing 21st century programs and services to rapidly changing communities.” To support her nomination, CML received multiple letters from Caroline County Public School administrators, and from the Town of Denton extolling Ms. Hill-Coursey’s important work to enhance the quality of life in Caroline County.

Choose Civility poster contest; student entrant with certificates; “Kwanza in Caroline”.

*Due to Covid, events were not held this fall. We are looking forward to offering these events as soon as health and safety permit.
Even with the doors closed, libraries are staying connected to customers through online services and programs. Libraries have increased spending on e-formats and are presenting virtual programs for children and adults. The most popular of these was a discussion with Ibram X. Kendi, bestselling author of *How to Be an Antiracist*, led by Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College. The conversation was streamed live on Crowdcast, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter/Periscope on July 20 and aired on PGCC TV at a later date. 226,000 watched the live event and 122,920 tuned into the on-demand television program, for a total audience of 348,920.

The event was presented by a consortium of organizations based in Prince George's County and Maryland, including Joe's Movement Emporium, Prince George's County Memorial Library System and PGCMLS Foundation, Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts, Prince George's County Human Relations Commission, and Maryland State Library, with generous support from Wells Fargo.

Ibram X. Kendi's appearance was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Maryland State Library. The following Maryland public libraries were co-presenters of this virtual event: Allegany County Library System, Anne Arundel County Public Library, Calvert Library, Caroline County Public Library, Carroll County Public Library, Charles County Public Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Howard County Library System, Kent County Public Library, and the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County.

Praised by *The New York Times* as “the most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind,” Kendi's groundbreaking work has provided a major new counterpoint in the national conversation about race in America and resonates in this collective moment of reckoning.

Bestselling author, Ibram X. Kendi, is the director of the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University. He was a founder of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at the American University. He teaches history at Boston University. Kendi is a columnist at *The Atlantic* and a correspondent with CBS News. He is the author of five books including *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction; *How to Be an Antiracist; Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, co-authored with Jason Reynolds; and *Antiracist Baby*, illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky.
Capital Grants Project Program Continues to Enhance Maryland Public Libraries

In June, when the Board of Public Works approved the County Library Capital Grants Program for FY 2021 as presented, both Comptroller Peter Franchot and Treasurer Nancy Kopp spoke very highly of Maryland libraries’ innovative response to provide services during the pandemic. Comptroller Franchot stated: “Maryland's Libraries have been using their 3D printers to produce PPE. Libraries expanded access to e-books and digital materials, along with providing online adult and children's programs and dial-a-story services. Additionally, libraries expanded wifi hotspots into their parking lots and other areas to provide internet access for families that do not have it at home. All libraries have offered virtual programming and are moving forward with Maryland's annual summer reading program to be delivered in a virtual format.”

Projects coming to fruition with previous support from the Maryland Capital Grants project are:

- The Michael E. Busch Library in Annapolis opened in May. The 32,400 SF building features a Makerspace, tech zone and teen area, expanded children’s area and outdoor play space, six collaboration spaces, two meeting rooms, and more. The library was named for the beloved Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates who died in April 2019 and was the longest serving Speaker in the state’s history.

- The Leonardtown Library and Garvey Senior Activity Center in St. Mary’s County.

- Cecil County Public Library is building the 45,000 SF North East Branch. The facility will replace the existing 2,800 SF North East Branch and provide comprehensive 21st century services to the growing area.

In FY 2021, the Governor included in his budget and the Legislature approved $7,300,000 in Library Capital Grant Project funding. The funds will go toward four projects:

- Allegany County Library System – Lavale Library: Renovation and Expansion

- Anne Arundel County Public Library – Riviera Beach Library: New building Construction

- Frederick County Public Libraries – Middletown Public Library: New building Design

- Queen Anne’s County Library – Kent Island Branch Library: Renovation and Expansion

The Michael E. Busch Library in Annapolis opened in May 2020

The new Leonardtown Library and Garvey Senior Activity Center

Rendering and construction overview of Cecil County Public Library’s North East Branch
Joe Thompson
Keeps Library Connected

When Maryland libraries were forced to close their doors in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Maryland Library Association (MLA) past president, Joe Thompson started thinking about a way in which the library community could stay connected. On April 24, he launched the first MLA Conversations, which has grown into a weekly hourlong virtual interview and chat with librarians who are doing great things and have ideas and experience to share. His first guests were Morgan Miller, president of MLA and executive director of Cecil County Public Library, and Naomi Keppler, MLA conference chair 2020 and assistant manager of the Rosedale Branch Library in Baltimore County.

Mr. Thompson has kept the conversation going ever since and now has quite an archive of conversations. He invites guests throughout the state, experienced leaders as well as those who are early in their career. He has interviewed school librarians, faculty at the iSchool at University of Maryland, and specialists in various library fields. Each session includes time for Q & A. Recently, he interviewed CML president, Pat Hofmann, and past president Kristen Pironis. The MLA Conversations have been archived and are available on the MLA website.

MLA Conversations is a great initiative, but it’s not surprising that Mr. Thompson has looked for a way to keep his colleagues engaged. Throughout his career in Maryland libraries, he has strongly encouraged and facilitated information sharing and idea exchange.

Mr. Thompson started his work in libraries as a part-time circulation assistant at the Cockeysville Branch, Baltimore County Public Library. In 1997, after graduating from Towson University, he was hired full-time as a library associate and completed the Library Services Training Institute program. While continuing his work at BCPL, Mr. Thompson enrolled in the graduate library program at the University of Maryland and received his MLS in 2001.

In 2003, in partnership with the Maryland State Library (then the Division of Library Services at the Maryland Department of Education), Baltimore County Public Library launched the AskUsKnow! statewide virtual reference service, and named Mr. Thompson project coordinator. He received the Davis-McCarn award for innovative use of technology.

In September 2008, Mr. Thompson was hired as director of the Western Maryland Regional Library, where he worked closely with the directors of Washington, Allegany and Garrett County libraries. In 2014, he was hired as senior administrator for public service at Harford County Public Library, and in 2016, he was hired as director of public services at Carroll County Public Library, a position he currently holds.

Mr. Thompson served as president of MLA in 2018-19. He is on the Board of Citizens for Maryland Libraries and has been the CML liaison to the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators for 10 years. Mr. Thompson has been very active in ALA for many years. He was president of the Reference and User Services Division in 2014.

In 2020, Mr. Thompson was appointed chair of the ALA Committee on Legislation by ALA president Julius Jefferson. In this role, he will work very closely with ALAs Washington Office.

The baseline constant throughout Mr. Thompson’s career has been a passion for bringing people together to share ideas, find solutions, provide opportunity for individual growth, and create new services that enhance the quality of Maryland libraries. We are fortunate to have his tireless energy at work for Maryland libraries and beyond.

Library Renamed

In the 2020 session, The Maryland General Assembly approved legislation to rename the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. The library serves eligible blind and print disabled residents of Maryland.
Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden appoints Shira Perlmutter as the 14th Register of Copyrights

On September 21, Dr. Carla Hayden announced her appointment of a new Register of Copyrights. "I am pleased to announce that Shira Perlmutter will serve as the 14th United States Register of Copyrights," said Hayden. "Shira brings to this role a deep knowledge of domestic and international copyright law and policy and a background in negotiating international intellectual property agreements. She has experience working with a wide range of stakeholders and finding common ground on complex issues."

Copyright functions were first centralized within the Library of Congress 150 years ago in 1870, and in 1897, Congress created the U.S. Copyright Office as a separate department of the Library of Congress. The Register of Copyrights serves by appointment of, and under the general direction of, the Librarian of Congress. The U.S. Copyright Office plays a crucial role in the nation's cultural and economic development. Congress enacted the first federal Copyright Act in 1790 in accordance with Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution "to promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." The U.S. Copyright Office is the principal federal entity charged by statute with the administration of the U.S. copyright law. Among other statutory duties, the Register oversees the copyright registration and recodation systems of the United States, manages statutory royalty fees totaling more than a billion dollars annually, advises Congress on domestic and international copyright policy issues, and provides support on copyright matters to courts and executive branch agencies.

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States—and extensive materials from around the world—both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services, and other programs and plan a visit at loc.gov, access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at congress.gov, and register and record creative works of authorship at copyright.gov.

Membership Application

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

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