AACPL Celebrates 100 Years of Service

The Anne Arundel County Public Library celebrates its 100th Anniversary in 2021. The first public library in the county opened on January 8, 1921 in a small room in Annapolis City Hall. Books could be borrowed for free, but library cards cost 10 cents. In an interview in the Capital Gazette, Director Skip Auld reported, “Eliza Suydam served as AACPL’s first paid librarian making $25 a month. While she was praised for her “personal zeal and hard work,” she also had a reputation as fiercely protective of the library collection.” The Glen Burnie Free Library opened in 1923.

The Annapolis Visitor’s Blog notes that for many years before moving to West Street, the library was housed at Reynolds Tavern located on Church Circle. The Farmers Bank of Maryland deeded the property to the Public Library Association of Anne Arundel County from 1939-1974. “You can now enjoy a pint (or cup of tea) where patrons once sat by the fire and read a book!” For a 100 year timeline go to: https://www.aacpl.net/100yeartimeline

You’ve Come a Long Way Baby!

Today the library has a collection of one million books and other materials and has 16 library locations plus online service. When the pandemic forced the libraries to close their doors, the system extended Wi-Fi access to most of its parking lots and offered remote printing. Library programs switched to Zoom and Facebook Live. Branches got creative, offering face masks, to-go craft packages, and use of Chromebooks. They continued the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program; contactless Curbside Plus service; telephone assistance; tens of thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, digital magazines, and streaming movies; online resources for job searches; and homework help. They also offered COVID vaccine clinics at several locations.

Despite the pandemic, AACPL was able to hold some special anniversary celebrations. One of these was teaming up with four local brewers for “Cheers to 100 Years” events. Each brewery crafted an exclusive blonde ale to mark the occasion. A portion of the proceeds supported technology and program improvements at all 16 library branches. Library staff were on hand distributing “I Love My Library!” pint glasses in exchange for a donation.

This year the CML/MSL Annual Meeting was scheduled to be held in-person in Annapolis. Due to ongoing COVID concerns, we switched to virtual. However, hold October 15, 2022 when we will meet in person at the Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library and cut the cake in honor of 100 years of service!
Wow! It is hard to believe that the year is flying by and Fall is upon us! To say this has been another challenging year for all of us would be an understatement. Like so many of you, we have all learned that life during a pandemic brings about new realities, priorities, challenges, and opportunities. It has been an honor to serve CML this year as president and work with an amazing board comprised of dedicated library lovers like me.

It has also been my privilege to work with an incredible person and dedicated executive director, Lynn Wheeler. The business of a great organization takes hard work and we have been fortunate to have Lynn at the helm. We will miss her leadership, experience, and drive. When Lynn came on as “interim” several years ago we all knew the day would arrive when we would be interviewing candidates to permanently fill the position. Lynn has been involved with CML since its inception and while we wish her well in her future endeavors, we also hope to keep her close to the organization.

As libraries across the state have reopened, gone back to hybrid/modified programs and services, and reopened again, we have seen some incredible milestones. Here in my home county Anne Arundel County Public Libraries are celebrating their 100th Anniversary and have “officially” opened the new Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library, named after the former Speaker of the House and library champion. New libraries opened in Cecil (April 2021) and St. Mary’s County (Aug. 2020) with systems across the state continuing to offer innovative services and programming despite challenges. I am especially excited to learn that the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System is getting close to opening their new Hyattsville Branch. The original branch was constructed in 1964 and featured “characteristic mid-century modern structure with clean lines, abstract ornamentation and an asymmetrical footprint.” But most importantly for me as my home library as a 7-year-old was the “flying saucer” awning over the sidewalk that led into the library. How cool is that!! An all-out effort by the community has saved the flying saucer and after some “refurbishing” it will reside as a feature on the grounds. You can even get a “flying saucer” t-shirt offered as a fundraiser through the PGCMLS Foundation store!

CML continues to move forward. We have met on Zoom, conducted a robust awards program, performed an annual audit, continue work with the Maryland Library Legislative Panel, held a pre-conference program at MLA/DLA, planned the CML/State Library Conference, will be electing new officers and making appointments to the board, and will be working on the budget for 2022. It has been a busy year and although it is hard not being together in-person, we have enjoyed the time we have been together virtually. The time has flown by and it seems like there is always so much more to do!

I would be remiss in not recognizing two of our CML Board members who have passed away this year: Margaret Carty, Executive Director of the Maryland Library Association and Maurice Travillian, former Maryland State Librarian.

Margaret served the CML Board as the representative from MLA and to all who knew her, she was a “force of nature.” She took MLA from being an organization on tenuous ground to one that became a model for other ALA affiliates across the country. Always ready to provide guidance, great ideas, and to let you know when you were off track, we all valued Margaret’s sound advice. Like many of you, I was fortunate to call her my friend and greatly miss our phone calls, quiet conversations, and her counsel. We were all lucky to have Margaret in our lives!

Maurice was a CML Board Member Emeritus and during his tenure as State Librarian was best known as the visionary behind the network that became known as “Sailor” delivering the internet to all public libraries in Maryland. I never had the opportunity to work with Maurice through CML but often represented my former boss at Sailor meetings during its infancy. I always admired Maurice’s warmth, intelligence, and wit. Our hearts go out to the families of both Margaret and Maurice and I hope they know the incredible difference they made to all of us at CML and to the citizens of Maryland.

As 2022 winds down, Kathy and I again hope to resume our travel plans. Our last big trip was to the Yukon and Alaska. We have a cruise booked for September of 2022 to New England & the Canadian Maritimes, and plan to visit Florida to spend time with my family this coming spring. Here is hoping that each of you finds what makes you happy and that you pursue it as we all come out of this pandemic.

Before I close, special thanks again to the CML Board, the Executive committee - Phyllis Kilby, Jim DeArmey, Patty Sundberg, Lynn Wheeler (ex-officio), and to all the committees for their hard work this past year. And thanks to all of you who serve your library systems. Let’s hope 2022 brings us back to some sense of “normal” and leads us to greater opportunities.
Citizens for Maryland Libraries in partnership with the Maryland State Library is pleased to present the 2021 Annual Conference for Friends, Trustees and Library Supporters on Saturday, October 16, from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, featuring:

Rebecca Cokley, a program officer in the President’s Office of the Ford Foundation, is developing a U.S. disability rights program strategy, the first of its kind at the Ford Foundation.

Prior to joining the Ford Foundation, Rebecca was the co-founder and director of the Disability Justice Initiative at the Center for American Progress (CAP), where she built a progressive disability policy platform to protect rights and services disabled people and their families depend on for survival, and developed innovative solutions for the future including a proposed disabled worker tax credit and increasing access to capital for disabled-owned small businesses.

She served as the executive director for the National Council on Disability where she worked on sexual violence on college campuses, policing reform, and civil rights.

A three time Presidential Appointee, Rebecca served in key policy roles at the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, and at the White House where she oversaw diversity and inclusion efforts for the Obama Administration.

Rebecca serves on the board of directors for Common Cause, Rockwood Leadership Institute and the ACLU National Capital Region. This year she received the Richman Distinguished Fellowship in Public Life honor from Brandeis University.

Tina Campanella is Chief Executive Officer at Quality Trust for Individuals, which offers support and advocacy for people of all ages with disabilities. It serves individuals and families in the DC area. The organization focuses on finding creative ways to bridge the gap between differences and to make the most of each person’s abilities.

Irene Padilla, Maryland State Librarian will provide an overview of activities in Maryland libraries. Under Ms. Padilla’s leadership, the Maryland State Library has effectively administered State and Federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs and excellent customer service. In its first three years of service, MSL distributed over $2.2 million in federal grant awards to support Maryland public libraries, an increase of over 300% since the agency was established in 2017. This has been an even busier year! MSL is currently managing four separate IMLS awards: Grants to States Federal Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, CARES Act, and American Rescue Plan Act funding. The Maryland State Library also oversees the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, the State Library Network, the Library Capital Grant Programs, and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.
Call for 2022 CML Award Nominations

Each year CML presents three prestigious awards. Nominations are now being sought for 2022 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 21, 2022. Please submit a nomination that includes name of the award, name of nominee, and a statement describing the nominee’s achievements 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 two tickets to 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.

CML Welcomes New Executive Director

The Citizens for Maryland Libraries Board is pleased to welcome Stephanie Johnson as its new Executive Director. She will begin her new role this Fall. Ms. Johnson brings 15 years of experience in government relations at the state, federal, and international levels. She currently heads the public policy department of TESOL International Association (Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages), addressing issues that affect the English language teaching profession worldwide. Ms. Johnson previously managed government and regulatory affairs for the Association of Corporate Counsel in Washington, DC. There she oversaw strategic partnerships and credentialing programs, maximized recognition and branding programs, and oversaw advocacy activities.

Ms. Johnson received her BA (2008) in English with a minor in Political Science from Indiana University and an MA (2010) in American Studies from Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. A Maryland resident since 2014, Ms. Johnson lives in Baltimore with her grey cat and certified mouser, Kippey. She is a lifelong library cardholder and enthusiastic user of library services.

Over the next two months, outgoing Executive Director, Lynn Wheeler and CML Board members will be working closely with Stephanie to fully engage her in the vibrant Maryland library community.

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 21, 2022. 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
Margaret Carty Award

The Citizens for Maryland Libraries Marion Satterthwaite Award is presented posthumously to Margaret Carty, who was greatly loved by the library community for her superb leadership of the Maryland Library Association and her longstanding, deeply devoted and very active service on the board of Citizens for Maryland Libraries.

Margaret died on February 4, 2021, at the age of 82. At that time, she was still enthusiastically serving as the executive director of the Maryland Library Association, a position she accepted in 1999 and held for 21 years. Morgan Miller, executive director of Cecil County Public Library and president of the Maryland Library Association at the time of Margaret’s death noted, “She did far more than lead the Association—she built it from the ground up. From afar, she was a brilliant non-profit leader and library advocate. Those of us who were fortunate to work closely with her knew her kindness, generosity, and ability to inspire and support everyone she came into contact with, especially new library leaders.”

Margaret devoted a lot of her energy to making friends in Annapolis. She was highly respected by Maryland House and Senate leaders. Margaret and her staff planned and coordinated Maryland Library Legislative Day activities in Annapolis, starting early in the morning with briefings, and ending with an outstanding legislative reception in the Senate President’s Reception Room—an event not to be missed!

Margaret also coordinated the library exhibit booth at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Annual Meeting at the Powell Convention Center in Ocean City. The popular library booth received the Best Booth award more than once and was the go-to place to meet the Governor, his staff, county and state legislators.

Margaret regularly attended MLA Library Legislative Panel meetings and participated in library-related bill hearings in Annapolis. Throughout her career, she never missed an opportunity to highlight and promote the work of Maryland libraries. The library community was proud to be represented by Margaret.

The former Margaret West Creighton was born in San Diego. She was the daughter of Rear Adm. Liles Walker Creighton and his wife, Alice Starkey Creighton. Growing up in a Naval family, she lived at bases in the US and Cuba. The family’s home base was in Houlton ME, a place Margaret loved and kept a home throughout her life. Margaret attended the University of Maine and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA in Social Work. She also received a Master of Governmental Administration degree from the University of Maryland. She raised three sons, and led a varied career as a social worker, Naval Officer (1960-1964), administrator at Building Owners and Management Institute (BOMI), and as Executive Director of the Maryland Library Association. In 2013, she was recognized as one of Maryland’s Top 100 Women.

Left to right: Margaret and Maryland library delegation outside of Senator Barbara Mikulski’s Office on National Library Legislative Day; with Budget Secretary David Brinkley, State Librarian Irene Padilla, Sneaks and colleagues at the MACO library exhibit booth and with the CML Board in October 2016.
The Davis McCarn Award

Jen Bishop, Exploration Commons Manager at Carroll County Public Library, is the recipient of the Davis McCarn Award for innovative use of technology that has enhanced library service in Maryland.

In his letter of nomination, Bob Kuntz, Director of Operations and Innovation for Carroll County Public Library, extolled Jen’s work to learn, demonstrate and teach others to use emerging technologies, including virtual and augmented realities, 3D printing, scanning, coding, and robotics. Jen has provided technology training in libraries throughout Maryland. She has led demonstrations to customers and staff, as well as to government officials.

Over the past three years, Jen has been fully engaged in visioning, designing and training staff to work in Exploration Commons at 50 East, where citizens of all ages will be able to create, innovate and collaborate in a makerspace environment. The new makerspace in Westminster (Carroll County), funded by Maryland Capital Grants Project grants with local matching funding is scheduled to open this winter.

Prior to her current role, Jen served as Emerging and Digital Technology Manager at CCPL where she engaged children in a variety of discovery projects, including building a 3-D printer, and she oversaw the development of an augmented reality project that demonstrated the working of a historic mill at Union Mills Homestead. This AR exhibit was displayed throughout the state, including in the Miller Senate Office Building.

Jen delights in teaching technology to children. One tool she uses to engage young customers in coding is Pepper, a four-foot humanoid robot funded through a Library Services and Technology Act Grant administered by the Maryland State Library, who reads stories, plays games and holds conversations.

Jen is a very active member of the maker community in Maryland and looks for opportunities to share the benefits of technology. She has spoken about and demonstrated new technologies at library conferences and technology conferences. She regularly exhibits new tech at the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference. When the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, she was involved in ensuring that CCPL’s 3-D printers were put to work to create protective face shields for health care workers, in partnership with Open Works Makerspace in Baltimore.

American Association of School Librarians Award

Kudos to Maryland School Librarians! The Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) is the recipient of the 2021 American Association of School Librarians’ Chapter of the Year Award. The $1,000 award recognizes the AASL Chapter most active and dynamic in achieving the goals of AASL at the state and local level. (AASL is a division of the American Library Association).

“From an impressive amount of professional development to advocacy efforts and organic personalized learning network as a part of the pandemic, the Maryland Association of School Librarians deserves the AASL Chapter of the Year Award,” said Nichole Ballard-Long, award committee chair. “Their intentional focus on diversity, racism, and leadership is timely and appropriate – MASL is a chapter that provides a commendable body of services for its members.”

Among its many achievements, MASL founded and oversees The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award. Started in 1992, the Maryland student choice award program promotes literacy and lifelong reading habits by encouraging students to read quality, contemporary literature.
Anne Arundel County Public Library Board Chair
Receives 2021 ALA Trustee Citation

Before graduating from the University of Baltimore in 2018, Will Shorter served on the Board of Regents for the University of Maryland System with titans for education twice his age. He joined the Board of Trustees of the Anne Arundel County Public Library in May 2019. At the October 2019 Board meeting, Shorter was elected 2nd Vice Chairman. He served in this role as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board until he was elected Chairman in June 2020, making him the youngest Board of Trustees Chairman in the United States at age 23.

Shorter initiated a review of board governance by hiring Maureen Sullivan as a consultant to review all governance and management aspects of the library system. He worked closely with the Board’s ad hoc Cybersecurity Committee, which was formed in 2019, to review the fallout from a severe malware attack on the library’s IT infrastructure in 2018. That committee encouraged staff to hire an outside firm to conduct a cybersecurity audit that was completed in November 2020.

As a result of the Sullivan report, Shorter is overseeing a restructuring of Board committees and meeting schedules to make it more effective and agile. He is working to review and act upon the recommendations for (a) board governance, (b) administration, and (c) relationships between the Board of Trustees and the AACPL Foundation Board of Directors.

Shorter has served on two panels for the American Library Association. In September 2020, he addressed an audience of several hundred on the United for Libraries webinar Responding When COVID Comes to Your Library: Learning from Real Stories. At the ALA Midwinter Meeting in January 2021, he spoke on a panel about The Road Ahead: Libraries in an Uncertain Future.

Will Shorter grew up a lifelong resident of Glen Burnie in northern Anne Arundel County. He and Anne Arundel County Public Library CEO Skip Auld are working closely to plan for two new libraries to replace the Glen Burnie branch, his childhood library.

The American Library Association (ALA) Trustee Citation, established in 1941 to recognize public library Trustees for distinguished service to library development, honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 American citizens who serve on library boards.

We are proud that a number of library board members in Maryland have received the ALA Trustee Citation. This distinguished group includes:

- Al Martin (2019) Treasurer of Washington County Free Library Board of Trustees, first President of the Maryland State Library Board, former CML board member.
- David Goldsmith (2009) former President of both Prince George’s County Memorial Library and Baltimore County Public Library Board of Trustees, and former CML board member.
- Mary Lou Dewey (2002) former President, Carroll County Public Library Board of Trustees and CML board member.
- Elmer Jackson (1984) former Anne Arundel County Board President.

United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations awards the ALA Trustee Citation. It is a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. To join, please visit www.ala.org/united or call (800) 545-2433, ext. 2161.

Will Shorter, chair of the Anne Arundel County Public Library Board of Trustees, is the 2021 ALA Trustee Citation Recipient

One Maryland, One Book

The 2021 One Maryland One Book was The Book of Delights: Essays, by Ross Gay, published by Algonquin. The selection committee’s theme for 2021 was hope. Mr. Gay’s book of poetic essays, both poignant and humorous, reminds us to take time to closely look and find delight in the world around us. During his recent OMOB virtual book tour, Gay had engaging conversations with bibliophiles around the state.

He is the author of four books of poetry, including Be Holding, a love song to legendary basketball player Julius Erving, AKA Dr. J. When not observing and writing, Gay teaches at Indiana University.

Maryland Humanities coordinates the highly anticipated OMOB program, which began in 2008. For more information, go to https://www.mdhumanities.org/programs/one-maryland-one-book/
Outstanding Employee Awards 2022

In his letter of nomination, CEO Skip Auld extolled the innovative work of Rebecca Hass and Stephanie Petruso to provide high quality service delivery during the COVID pandemic.

As Virtual Services Manager, Stephanie Petruso loved finding creative ways to use social media and the library’s web presence to connect customers to library resources and get them excited about libraries and reading. She also worked to bridge the digital divide by overseeing the library’s popular wi-fi hotspot lending program and introducing new technologies like virtual reality to the community.

As the Programming and Outreach Manager, Rebecca Hass and her team supported over 5,000 programs and community events annually in 16 libraries throughout the county, by convening hundreds of community partners, non-profits, and presenters through a process she describes as “program matchmaking.” Rebecca has represented the library in many Anne Arundel County initiatives, including the Early Childhood Commission, Project Re-entry, and Community Plan task forces on homelessness, food insecurity, and transportation. She has supported diverse and inclusive programming, including Drag Queen Storytime, Human Library, STEM Day, Trade School Fair, and Comic Con.

When COVID forced the library branches to close to walk-in service, the Programming and Outreach and Virtual Services departments quickly combined to create a new Virtual Programming Task Force that developed an extensive array of online programming resources and procedures to help staff communicate effectively with customers. Becky and Stephanie’s leadership, teamwork, ingenuity and perseverance throughout the past year was instrumental in guiding Anne Arundel County Public Library to a new service model.

Rebecca “Becky” Hass
Anne Arundel County Public Library
Mentioned text: Sonia Alcántara-Antoine
Sonia Alcántara-Antoine started her position as Director of Baltimore County Public Library in February 2021. She was selected following a nationwide search. She replaces Paula J. Miller who retired in September 2020. Prior to joining Baltimore County, Ms. Alcántara-Antoine served as director of Libraries and Information Services at Newport News Public Library, as Public Services manager for Virginia Beach Public Library, and held multiple positions at Enoch Pratt Free Library. She is an American Library Association Spectrum Scholar — a scholarship program which seeks to increase the ranks of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to leadership positions within the library profession. Alcántara-Antoine is active in professional associations, including the Public Library Association and the Urban Libraries Council, where she serves on the Race and Social Equity and Digital Equity action teams. She holds a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Florida State University.

Alec Staley
Worcester County Library
Mentioned text: Alec Staley
Alec Staley was promoted to Branch Manager, Ocean City Branch, in September 21. Prior to that, Staley was the Local History Librarian for Worcester County Library for two years. During that time, he brought the library’s archives into the digital age. Staley digitized over 20,000 photographs and documents, and made them easily accessible online. He increased transcriptions of the library’s oral history interviews. One of his goals for the collection was to showcase the rich history of underserved communities in Worcester County. Staley compiled primary source documents into displays, shared posts on social media, and promoted Worcester County Library’s diverse collection. Staley also created a Preserving Your Family Treasures web page filled with useful tips on preserving print photos, digital photos, newspaper articles, postcards and film. He was nominated by then Assistant Director, Rachel Stein, for his work to expand digital outreach to the community during COVID. He hopes to continue highlighting diverse authors and creating an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all.

BCPL Welcomes New Director
Autumn 2021 The Citizen 9

Staff were approached by Anita Vassallo, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries to develop a method for contactless pickup of physical materials for customers. The team established a workgroup based in the Microsoft Teams application to develop policies and procedures for the system. Using the Teams platform as their main worksite, the team surveyed a variety of similar services from other library systems, considered a range of possibilities, and by adapting and tailoring procedures to fit the unique circumstances of MCPL, developed the Holds To Go service. MCPL launched Holds To Go on July 6, 2021, less than two months after the formation of the team.

Ms. Vassallo stated that the team's work has been continuous since that time, with refinements, iterations and additions – fine-tuning the service to optimize the benefit to the community. She praised the team for being extremely open to suggestions from the frontline staff providing the service at 20 MCPL branches, and integrating their work with the Digital Strategies, Marketing, and Data and Evaluation teams. Since its inception, hundreds of thousands of successful appointments have been fulfilled, and an accompanying service based on this model, "Prints to Go" is underway.

The response to Holds To Go is overwhelmingly positive, from both customers and staff. The following is representative of most customer comments regarding the service: "Heartfelt thanks to all the library staff who have kept the libraries going through the pandemic. Being able to get library books has really helped my sanity – I'm so glad and thankful that you found a way to make contactless pick-ups work. And it works well, consistently!"

Ms. Vassallo commended the staff, noting, "In addition to launching the Holds To Go service, a major achievement of this team has been to demonstrate how differing levels of staff can come together to achieve a common goal. Each of these staff members took an active role in problem solving, addressing concerns from staff, and seeking out information. In a large system like MCPL, the example of a rapid response, agile and effective team is one that is truly to be applauded."

While Ms. Grant's day to day responsibilities warrant recognition, it was her work as Interim CEO that really demonstrated her leadership abilities. In April 2020, Southern Maryland Regional Library’s CEO retired after 24 years of service. Simultaneously the COVID-19 pandemic was underway. Ms. Grant rose to the challenge to keep SMRLA running smoothly until a new CEO could be brought on board.

Ms. Grant was involved in all aspects of key decision making for the library as Interim CEO—she managed the library's finances and worked with the library's Board to keep key operations going. In addition to being responsive to the pandemic and its impacts on library services, Ms. Grant ensured key library deadlines were met including the successful completion of the library's annual audit and the library's annual report to the Maryland State Library.

Ms. Grant performed exceptionally well under high pressure conditions. Not only did she have to establish herself as a leader in the absence of a long-term CEO, but also, she had to make thoughtful decisions to protect library staff during COVID-19.

CML is pleased to announce the Outstanding Employee Awards for 2021

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.

Outstanding Employee Awards 2022

Holds to Go/Prints to Go Development and Implementation Team
Montgomery County Public Libraries

Adrienne Miles-Holderbaum, Candace Hixon, Carol Reddan, Nishat Sultana, Jody Young
Nominated by Anita Vassallo, Director, MCPL

Susan Grant
Head of Information and Access Services
Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA)
Nominated by Ashley Teagle, CEO, SMRLA

Worcester County Library History
Capital Grants Project Program Continues to Enhance Maryland Public Libraries

In July, the Board of Public Works approved the Maryland State Library's request to make 6 grants to county public library systems totaling $7,500,000. They are:

- Renovation and expansion of the LaVale Library (Allegany County) constructed in 1975. When finished, the project will nearly double the size of the current building to 16,300 SF. Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects has finalized the renovation designs, with three new additions – a community room, a reading room, and a new entrance.
- Complete construction of the new Riviera Beach Library (Anne Arundel County). Prior funds were awarded for design and to start construction.
- Construct a new Twin Beaches Branch in North Beach (Calvert County).
- Renovate Denton Branch Library (Caroline County).
- Construct a new 15,000 SF Middletown Library (Frederick County) to replace a 2,917 SF library.
- Expand and renovate the Kent Island Library (Queen Anne's County). FY 2022 funding will complete the construction and furnish the addition.

Library construction projects funded by the Maryland Capital Grants Project that were completed in 2021 are:

- North East Branch (Cecil County), a new 43,000 SF state-of-the-art library, which opened in April of 2021.
- Reisterstown Branch (Baltimore County), a nearly 200-year-old historic building built in 1826, which re-opened in September 2021, following extensive renovation that included gutting and remodeling interior on both floors and installing new HVAC. A new feature in the branch is Preservation Station, a DIY digitization lab for preserving photos, films and family history documents, funded by the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library.
Joe Thompson, Director of Public Services for Carroll County Public Library and CML Board Member, is also chair of the American Library Association’s Committee on Legislation (COL), which is responsible for determining the legislative agenda for the national association. This is his second term, having been appointed in 2020-21 by ALA President, Julius Jefferson, and again in 2021-22, by ALA President, Patty Wong. In this role, Joe works closely with ALA’s Public Policy & Advocacy Office to: Identify priorities, and review and advise on policy statements and resolutions that impact federal legislative policy or regulations; provide a forum within ALA to share information and legislative analysis of current and pending federal laws and legislation; and keep ALA units apprised of issues and collaborate and to offer assistance when federal legislation has impact on the state and local level.

Joe Thompson
ALA Legislative Committee Update

We caught up with Joe to ask him the priorities for FY 22. The key issues are: Build America’s Libraries Act, which would fund upgrades to the nation’s library infrastructure, including expanding broadband capacity and removing accessibility barriers. The proposed legislation would provide $5 billion for library construction and modernization. Also a high priority is fair use of copyright, especially as it pertains to e-book sales to libraries.

In Memoriam: J. Maurice Travillian

J. Maurice Travillian, former Maryland State Librarian, died on July 14, 2021. He was 83. He worked for the Division of Library Development and Services in the Maryland State Department of Education for more than two decades.

During his tenure as State Librarian in the early 1990’s, he envisioned and led the development of a statewide network, “Sailor” that brought the first Internet access to counties throughout Maryland. His effort received the James Madison Award from the Coalition for Government Information in 1995. Maurice also envisioned and delivered the statewide interlibrary loan system: MILO. He gave grants to transition the last Maryland public library card catalogs from paper to digital versions, thereby enabling library catalogs to be searchable at Internet scale.

Maurice obtained a teaching degree from Memphis State College, taught high school history for two years, and then furthered his education at Vanderbilt University with a Master’s Degree in Library Science. He launched his library career by driving a bookmobile for the Daniel Boone Regional Library in Columbia, Missouri. Shortly thereafter, he became Library Director of the Marshalltown, Iowa, Public Library. He was then promoted to State Librarian of Iowa. After a battle over censorship, he was briefly an academic librarian at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, before coming to Maryland.

Maurice was a founding member of Citizens for Maryland Libraries and played an active role on the CML Board for many years.

He was a raconteur, voracious reader, gourmet chef, and loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Sandra Doggett, who retired as coordinator of school library media services in Frederick County and served on the Frederick County Public Libraries Board for many years.

He brought the Internet to all Maryland Public Libraries.
100 Years at Anne Arundel County Public Library

For the full timeline, visit: https://www.aacpl.net/100yeartimeline
Left to right, top to bottom:
Celebratory banners; First librarian Eliza Suydam; Annapolis Library moved to the old Annapolis High School building on Green Street and then into Reynolds Tavern; children visit the Bookmobile; a librarian carries books up the stairs; the Michael E. Busch Library opened in Annapolis in 2020.

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 ______________________________________________________________________________________________________
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Annual Memberships: I would like to contribute $________ to support: Mail to:
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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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