MLA/DLA Conference Reflections: Josh Stone

This year the Maryland Library Association (MLA) partnered with the Delaware Library Association (DLA) to present the MLA/DLA Conference. Designed as an effort to better serve both MLA and DLA members, Josh Stone, Executive Director of MLA and CML Board member, and Rachel Culver, President of DLA, offered an opportunity for members to attend a variety of sessions that would encourage collaboration and growth. Here are some conference reflections from Josh Stone:

“This year’s conference featured roughly 70 sessions, including nine pre-conference programs. Our theme for our first in-person conference in three years was Come as You Are. Everyone involved, from the planning committee to the presenters, helped highlight this theme by creating a welcoming space for all attendees.

Sessions at the conference included topics such as privacy and intellectual freedom issues facing libraries, engaging underserved and marginalized communities, and numerous discussions on the role libraries play as communities emerge from the pandemic.

Aside from the professional development, the biggest benefit the MLA/DLA Annual Conference offers is networking. The Conference Planning committee did an incredible job putting together networking and social events like the Black Caucus of MLA reception, a pub quiz-style trivia event, and karaoke.

We partnered with the Delaware Library Association to better serve both MLA and DLA members by increasing the number of sessions offered, as well as to provide opportunity for both groups to collaborate and grow. We offered sessions that focused on privacy and intellectual freedom issues facing libraries today, sessions on engaging with under-served and marginalized communities, and plenty of discussions on the role libraries can play as we slowly emerge from the pandemic.

What surprised me the most was the dedication and energy of the planning committee. We had a few veterans on the team that helped lead the way, but even those that had never attended in-person MLA/DLA Annual Conference before stepped up to help make the event a success.

The highlight for me was seeing everyone get together with friends and colleagues they haven’t seen in person since the start of the pandemic, and seeing people make brand new connections and get inspired to try new things at their library. To me, that’s what the conference is all about: library workers coming together to learn and share as a community.

The MLA/DLA Conference provides a great return on investment for all attendees. Not only does the conference provide diverse professional development opportunities and unique and fun networking events, but it’s also hosted at a gorgeous location right on the water. The 2023 annual conference will be held May 10–12, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge.”

To see pictures and more information about the MLA/DLA Conference, readers can read The Crab.

—Tatanisha Love
The Work of the CML President

Citizens for Maryland Libraries is an organization that has been around for about 40 years. When I became a trustee of Cecil County Public Library, I didn’t know such an organization existed. Currently, I am completing a three-year term and am in the middle of my one-year term as president.

Coming into this term as president, the organization had just hired a new executive director and was moving to revamp and reinvigorate the organization by updating committees and raising its online presence and visibility. In the past, board members had relied on the executive director to do much of the work instead of being an active, contributing part of the organization. My main goal was to have functioning committees that truly worked on behalf of the libraries of Maryland and supported them in whatever way they needed us to.

Mid-way into this term, our executive director resigned and the board has stepped up to the plate big time. My main goal of active board participation has been realized through necessity. Stabilizing the organization through the remainder of the year has become my new goal.

CML provides legislative support through being a strong citizen voice that can contact legislators with a voter’s critical viewpoint that carries a lot of weight in many instances. CML is a vital component in making Maryland “library heaven.”

A Message from the Interim Executive Director

My background in libraries goes back more years than I would like to admit. I began as a shelver at the Baltimore County Public Library when I was in high school. The day that I started that job it was clear to me that I had found a home.

Over many years I moved into a full-time Librarian Trainee position at Baltimore County and then left to get my Masters of Library Science at Drexel University. From then on I have worked in public service, children’s programming, website development, network support, and virtual library services at both the Baltimore and Howard County library systems. I have seen firsthand the benefit that libraries bring to our communities.

After retirement, I served on the Board of Citizens for Maryland Libraries and put in two years as Secretary of the organization. With the unexpected resignation of our recently hired Executive Director, I was asked to step in until a new candidate could be found. I am incredibly proud to be a part of CML. Our organization works to be sure that the benefits that libraries provide to all users will be maintained and increased. I remember one moment on a community tour of the North Point Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. The Assistant Circulation Manager was speaking to a group of parents and students and said, “You really should come in as often as you can. We have such wonderful things.” CML works to make sure that those wonderful things and new wonderful things will always be available to the people of Maryland.
In May 2022 the MLA/DLA Conference returned as an in-person event at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Maryland for the first time since 2019. Jim DeArmey represents CML on the conference committee and was able to help organize this year’s Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) program.

CML set up an informal interview of Courtney Young, ALA President from 2014-2015, with Joe Thompson, Director of Public Service at Carroll County Public Library, as the interviewer. Ms. Young served as President of ALA when Joe Thompson was President of Reference and User Services (RUSA) of ALA. They have kept in touch ever since. Ms. Young is currently a University Librarian and Co-Director of the Hancock Commons at Colgate University.

Strategic planning was a big topic. Ms. Young observed that the Library was only mentioned 2 or 3 times in the Strategic Plan of Colgate University as a whole! It was her intent to have it become a much bigger part of the plan going forward. She favored brainstorming about how to tie the Library into the University consciousness, using both quantitative and qualitative data. The qualitative pieces include Library instruction which is essential for interdisciplinary studies and student-faculty research. There is also interest in developing a Data Dashboard for the Library as a tool – one place to save information so that the data would be available for anyone who was interested in exploring the implications.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is a current big question in our current social climate. Ms. Young noted that it is not a cut-and-dry function, but the point is to find out what makes people comfortable.

The Library learned a disheartening lesson in this area. It was learned that hard plastic, backless stools were placed in the front of the computers because whoever had chosen the stools didn't want the students to stay too long! Efforts were made to correct this.

Joe asked Ms. Young about mentoring, its value, and how she sees it working. She replied that it is primarily positive affirmation. There can be mutual mentoring and multi-mentoring relationships, informally and simultaneously. Time is so precious! Mentoring can take place in various forms – as pen pals, Twitter, or via any form of communication. The point is to develop networks of support.

A big question was why take on elected leadership roles in organizations as a volunteer in addition to your regular professional duties? Ms. Young had progressed from serving on the ALA Council, then the ALA Executive Committee to becoming the ALA President. Her answer was that she wanted to do more than just her regular job and these leadership roles offered personal development. She had started accepting opportunities to serve on committees, work on reports, and then she was offered positions. Others saw her potential and encouraged her to continue. Her service was valued.

While Ms. Young was ALA President, she made it a point to advocate for all types of libraries, public, school, academic and special libraries. She tried to be a good ambassador to the media. Advocacy is a primary role for ALA and there are many ways to advocate and many needs to promote: funding, collection development, physical space, WIFI, as well as accessibility to all.

A recent issue that has recurred is an effort to ban specific books. It keeps coming up! ALA has always been an advocate of intellectual freedom. A few vocal people object to certain books, but libraries must represent the larger community. ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom stands ready to assist local libraries when they face these challenges but always proceeds with discretion while respecting local and state preferences.

A final question was “Are libraries neutral?” Ms. Young’s answer was no, libraries have values and make choices. Libraries have always supported access and equality for all.

We greatly appreciated having Ms. Young participate in this year’s program and are looking forward to returning to Cambridge in May 2023 with an all-new CML program at next year’s MLA/DLA Conference!

–Jane Terebey
CML Recognizes Outstanding Employees

Cathy Hollerbach has worked for 27 years in a variety of capacities for the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) system. She has done everything from leading storytimes for preschoolers to managing all 16 branches and their extensive staff as well as the system’s online library. She currently serves as the organization’s Chief Operating Officer. Her work over the course of the last 21 months has perhaps had the biggest impact on the community.

Since the day the pandemic shut down the county, she has worked tirelessly to make sure residents had what they needed, whether that was access to books and computers or COVID testing and vaccines. No idea was too challenging or complicated for Cathy and her team to handle. The county and its residents are better for her leadership.

AACPL Chief Executive Officer Skip Auld said, “Cathy is deeply caring about our staff and community members and starting March 13, 2020, focused her team 100% on how to reinvent the library and reopen as soon as possible.”

The innovative ideas she championed or shepherded to fruition include laptop checkouts for families facing the digital divide, online kindergarten readiness programs for preschoolers, the first-of-its-kind curbside pickup of library books and materials, weekly food distributions for needy families, collection drives for diapers, the distribution of COVID-19 test kits and masks along with hosting vaccine clinics at library branches. Additionally, she encouraged interested staff to be temporarily deployed to help with the county’s emergency phone line, taking calls from residents in crisis.

As one of her colleagues wrote, “Every day, every week, and every hour for the past two years, Cathy has shown AACPL what it means to pivot, to be flexible, to be patient, to be kind, to have passion and devotion to a large group of people she has the pleasure to call her team.”

Ms. Hollerbach is always encouraging staff to "get to yes" on customer requests because she recognizes that the library exists to help build a welcoming, resilient community where all can realize life to its fullest potential.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries recognizes Cathy Hollerbach for her dedication to public service and her leadership in responding quickly and effectively to the needs of library users.

Heather Jackson serves as the West Area Manager for the Prince George’s County Memorial Library system. She is responsible for the operation of the Hyattsville, New Carrollton, Bladensburg, and Mount Rainier branches in a large, complex suburban library system. In her nomination, it was noted that Ms. Jackson “serves 4 branches in the West, and for each location, she knows all the local leaders, attends what seems like every municipal meeting, and can speak to the challenges and concerns facing each community with ease.”

Ms. Jackson has been a particularly vocal and dedicated advocate for the county’s refugee and Spanish-speaking populations. Moreover, as a manager, Ms. Jackson has proven that she is willing to be “in the trenches” with the staff members who serve their communities. She is committed and eager to put in the work alongside her front-line staff, regularly serving on the information desk. She spends time leading outreach and engagement events throughout her service area. She was a co-host and a leader in the rollout of our library’s first podcast, which uses humor and nostalgia to turn a critical eye on childhood favorites and brings in community experts throughout the county.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries recognizes Heather Jackson for her work to make the public library an integral part of the fabric of the community.
In title, Shirley Mason's role is to manage the Circulation Department of the Woodlawn Branch of Baltimore County Public Library. She connects with customers daily to provide exceptional service and supports her staff in fostering a space where customers of all ages feel welcome. But it's what Shirley does behind the scenes for library workers within the county, state, and even on the national level that sets her apart, making her a worthy recipient of the Outstanding Library Employee Award.

Ms. Mason is passionate and invested in the professional growth of herself and others and models such behavior consistently. She continually invests in her direct reports by building their skills and helping them address their areas of development. Through her one-on-one meetings, Shirley uncovers the potential of her staff and supports them in finding their next professional steps. To assist others in identifying their personal training goals and working toward them, Shirley created a unique self-directed learning model. While originally developed for the Woodlawn staff, it is now used system-wide at the Baltimore County Public Library.

Ms. Mason's support of professional development continues outside of BCPL with her participation in national and state-level training where she contributes her expertise. She has presented workshops on leadership and security many times at the Baltimore County Public Library, but also at sessions sponsored by the Maryland Library Association and the nationwide Public Library Association.

Additionally, Ms. Mason is heavily involved in the MLA Leadership Development Division's Leaders Who Library Book Club. The insights she provides at those meetings have encouraged many of her peers. Her vast knowledge of other professional development and self-help concepts deepens the conversation for all participants. Her engagement in these conversations has enlightened leaders throughout the state.

At both the state and system levels, Ms. Mason is involved in important Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. She has been involved in the formation of the Baltimore County Public Library's first Black Library Workers Affinity Group. She also serves on the Maryland Library Association's Diversity and Equity Inclusion taskforce and was specifically sought out to serve by the taskforce's Chairperson.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries recognizes Shirley Mason for exceptional dedication to customer service, mentorship and staff development as well as a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

The Davis McCarn Award

Carla Moore, Director of Information Technology for the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System already has many things to manage. In addition to fulfilling the complex duties of her job she has offered her time to support statewide technology initiatives for many years. Ms. Moore was appointed by Irene Padilla, the Maryland State Librarian, to represent the Maryland State Library (MSL) Agency. She works with the Office of Statewide Broadband in the Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure that every resident of the state is supported by high-quality, affordable broadband Internet service and has the tools necessary to take advantage of the Internet.

Locally, Ms. Moore spearheaded KnowBe4 Computer Security Awareness Training, at the Prince George's Memorial Library System. This is a training platform that allows users to receive training and testing in maintaining computer safety at home and in the workplace.

This led to her collaborating with the Maryland State Library to offer statewide access to this program for all Maryland libraries.

Ms. Moore has worked with the statewide Programming & Services Technology Task Force and worked diligently to use available and emerging technology to support library customers during the pandemic.

Finally, Carla Moore works with the Maryland State Library and the nationwide Urban Libraries Council in efforts to support digital equity and inclusion.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries recognizes the work – locally, statewide and nationally – that Carla Moore has done to bring digital access and internet awareness to all members of our society.
The MLA Legislative Panel

The MLA Legislative Panel sponsored a workshop at the 2022 MLA/DLA Conference entitled Legislative Update: Things Library Advocates Should Know. The presenters were Andrea Berstler, Legislative Officer, and Natalie Edington, the Assistant Legislative Officer and the Federal Coordinator for the Legislative Panel.

Ms. Berstler first identified five ways to focus the work of the Legislative panel which would apply to all advocates: communicate, connect, coordinate, collaborate, and celebrate. All of these tasks address the need to build relationships with elected officials all the time and to talk with one voice about the issues.

Ms. Edington emphasized the use of online advocacy and the tools developed by the American Library Association. Use the following links at the ALA Action Center to subscribe:

- For the ALA National Advocate sign up, visit: https://bit.ly/3yzsasN
- For the Maryland Library Association Advocate sign up, visit: https://bit.ly/3SUYZsf

She continued with updates on the current legislative initiatives and reminded us that Federal activity is a year-long affair.

Ms. Berstler reviewed the 2022 Maryland Legislative Session which had recently ended and had delivered some increased funds as well as an important adjustment to the way that capital matching funds are calculated for a poorer county. The ongoing challenge in Maryland is that there are just 90 days to accomplish our goals for funding and other matters. We have to focus our efforts. A critical component is having good relationships with your legislators, thanking them for their support, and creating warm, fuzzy relations with them. If they recognize you, then when you come hat-in-hand asking for something, you have a better chance of being heard.

Other library organizations in Maryland that are partners in advocacy work are the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) and Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML). In fact, MAPLA pays the dues so that all the Trustees of all the Library Boards across the State are members of CML. Also mentioned was a new campaign of ALA that addresses censorship called Unite Against Book Bans. One can join this effort online at: https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/

The program provided an overview of advocacy and opened the door for all to get involved.

—Jane Terebey

Mary Lou Dewey Grant

Friends of the Queen Anne’s County Library

The Friends of the Queen Anne’s County Library has received the Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy and Awareness Grant to support their effort to purchase a one-month early literacy sign language program. The sessions will be presented by Stories by Hand’s owner Kathy MacMillan, a nationally certified American Sign Language interpreter, librarian, and storyteller (kathymacmillan.com).

This is a progressive weekly program that teaches about American Sign Language and Deaf Culture through high-energy, interactive storytelling, music, and games. Kathy MacMillan’s fun and educational presentation will cover the benefits of using basic American Sign Language with all children. Participants will leave armed with a vocabulary of very basic signs to start using right away.
The Work of MASL

Formerly known as MEMO (Maryland Educational Media Organization) until around 2008, the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) is an organization of over 500 school library professionals. As the incoming President, I will work with an Executive Board to continue advocating and promoting the work school librarians do in their schools and in their school communities. Thankfully, I have past MASL presidents as examples.

During the pandemic, everyone came together to ensure our members had the resources they needed to thrive. MASL used Zoom for discussions and had our first virtual conference with Ellen Oh and Dhonelle Clayton as guest speakers. Thanks to our hard work we received the 2021 American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Chapter of the Year Award. As President, I would like to continue the work that has been started by others.

During the last year or so, our Advocacy Committee received a Proclamation of Recognition for School Library Month in April 2022 by Governor Hogan. The Committee also provided an award to Maryland school librarians with the I Love my School Library Award. Thanks to submissions from students, three schools received recognition. We hope to offer the award to three more schools this school year, as well as continue the other initiatives, such as the Black Eyed Susan Award to positively impact school librarians and the communities they serve.

This summer, I had the pleasure of working with the Executive Board to revise our bylaws. During our virtual retreat, the Chairs of various committees also devised goals for 2022-2023. This year, our primary goal is to offer an in-person conference for our members.

I also attended the ALA Conference in June. In my first in-person conference in nearly two years, I enjoyed catching up with colleagues. The ALA Conference provided me with numerous ideas for MASL and increased my desire to promote the advocacy that we have coordinated with our members, as well as plan future initiatives.

I am very passionate when it comes to the work we do. Library professionals are valuable and libraries are treasures. They provide resources for literacy, thought, and engagement for a variety of communities. I hope that MASL will continue to develop partnerships with other organizations that have a common vision to promote literacy and ensure libraries are seen as valued resources.

– Tatanisha Love

Mary Lou Dewey Grant

Friends of the Govans Library

The Friends of the Govans Library, a branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, has been awarded the Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy and Awareness Grant for efforts to support the ongoing impact that Govans StoryWalk® has had on the community.

The StoryWalk® focuses on The Kindness Book by Todd Parr. The walk begins and ends at the Govans branch and leads participants to sixteen community businesses and schools where they read more about the book. The project has been a great success. This grant will be used to support additional programs and efforts to continue the impact that the StoryWalk® has had to make the library a focal point of the community.

The Mary Lou Dewey Advocacy and Awareness Grant is awarded for projects that emphasize an increase in citizen awareness and involvement in Maryland libraries. This year, Citizens for Maryland Libraries is pleased to have made two grants to local libraries.
Renovations and New Construction Continue Across Maryland Public Libraries

It has been another exciting year for new library facilities and much-needed renovations to existing libraries across Maryland. Several of these projects were made possible through the Maryland State Capital Grants Program and local matching funds.

Since we last reported, Carroll County Public Library held a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 17, 2021 for the grand opening of Exploration Commons at 50 East. This project renovated the ground floor of the existing Westminster Library to create a new 14,000 square foot Makerspace, Teaching Kitchen, and Meeting Rooms. This project has since been featured in the 2022 Library Design Showcase in the September issue of American Libraries Magazine.

The Governor’s Capital Budget was released on January 19, 2022 and included the mandated $7.5 million for the State Capital Grants program. At the end of the General Assembly’s session in April, the Capital Budget was approved at the mandated level, but did not include the additional supplemental funding of $2,935,000 that had been requested that would have fully funded all the projects in the new fiscal year. Additionally, state funding of more than $9 million was included in the Capital Budget outside the State Capital Grants program for library projects in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Montgomery County.

This year’s General Assembly session in Annapolis also saw legislation (SB 847/ HB 1249) pass that changes the Capital Match Formula and expands the distribution of funds to Garrett County. To date, the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County is the only library system in Maryland that has not received an award since the State Capital Grant program’s inception in FY 2008. This change had been recommended by the Maryland public library community. The Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County has now submitted its first request for State funding in the FY 2024 grant cycle for site acquisition and design of a new Friendsville Library.

Meanwhile, Queen Anne’s County Library’s Kent Island Branch expansion continued and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 22, 2022. Renovation is now underway on the original portion of the building. Becker Morgan Group provided the design.

Just last month, Allegany County Library System’s LaVale Library expansion and renovation came to completion with a ribbon cutting on Saturday, September 24, 2022. The library first opened in 1975 and this renovation doubles the space from approximately 8,500 to 17,000 square feet. The new meeting space can now accommodate up to 100 people. Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects provided the design.

Construction continues at Anne Arundel County Public Library’s new Riviera Beach Library, where substantial completion is planned for December 2022 and occupancy expected in Spring 2023. Grimm + Parker architects provided the design.

Calvert Library celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Twin Beaches Branch on May 24, 2022. Construction is expected to continue through 2023. Colimore Architects have provided the design and the construction contract has been awarded to Scheibel Construction.

Frederick County Public Libraries’ new Middletown Library project is progressing with the completion of the design phase. Opening of the new facility is currently expected in late calendar year 2023.

The design phase for the first floor renovations at Caroline County Public Library’s main library in Denton is complete and construction is expected to begin in the near future.

Turning our attention to federal legislation, many library supporters worked to advance the Build America’s Libraries Act (S. 127) from 2021 into 2022, which would have provided dedicated federal funding for library construction. However, the bill did not pass both houses of Congress.

Efforts continue to advance dedicated federal funding for library construction through other mechanisms. The FY 2023 funding bills released by the Senate Appropriations Committee on July 28, 2022 would, for the first time in 26 years, provide federal funding to modernize library buildings nationwide. If enacted, the bills would provide $20 million in new funding to improve public and Tribal library and museum facilities, which would be distributed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and to conduct a study of their physical condition. In addition, the bills would provide funding for other crucial library programs, including a $3.6 million increase for grants under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) administered by IMLS and a $3 million increase for grants under the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program administered through the Department of Education. Read more at: https://bit.ly/3ChqxRC.

—Joseph Thompson
Renovations and New Construction Continue Across Maryland Public Libraries

Carroll County Public Library’s Exploration Commons at 50 East. Credit: Maximilian Franz, Manns Woodward Architects

Allegany County Library System’s LaVale Library ribbon cutting day.

Queen Anne’s County Library’s Kent Island Branch expansion.
Getting to Know our CML Board Members

Laura Allison

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?

Going to the library is like going on an all-inclusive vacation. Whether it’s entertainment, learning, programs, internet access, or meeting spaces—there is something for everyone. And most importantly, everyone is always welcome.

What is a highlight of your work with CML?

The best part of my involvement with CML is working with fellow library supporters and advocates. I’ve learned a lot about our Maryland library system since joining CML and am proud to be a part of the CML team.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:

*The Heart’s Invisible Furies* by John Boyne

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Jay Bansbach

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?

What a bargain they are for the level of different services and products they deliver to their constituents. They are not just repositories for books!

What is a highlight of your work with CML?

My year (Jan. 2021 – Dec. 2021) as President of the organization was one that required great flexibility. We hired a new Executive Director, and as we thought we were coming out of the pandemic we found ourselves right back in the middle of another wave of Covid.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:

*The Last Train to Memphis: The Rise of Elvis Presley* and *Careless Love: The Unmaking of Elvis Presley* both by Peter Guralnick

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Phyllis Kilby

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?

The wide range of services that Maryland libraries offer.

What is a highlight of your work with CML?

Meeting the amazing library supporters across Maryland. They’re dedicated to making MD libraries the very best they can be.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:

*The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power and *The Slough House series* by Mick Herron

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Tatanisha Love

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?

Each library system supports the other.

What is a highlight of your work with CML?

Through CML, I have a chance to learn about various programs and initiatives occurring in Maryland libraries. I also love the fact that I am learning ways to connect with legislators to promote libraries and the resources we offer.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:

*Seven Days in June* by Tia Williams
Getting to Know our CML Board Members

Susan Sherman

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?
I wish people knew the vast array of resources, programs and services that libraries offer their communities.

What is a highlight of your work with CML?
Learning more about the library system in MD and getting to know so many people who support libraries.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Jane Terebey

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?
I wish that more people understood that they can borrow from any library across the state, usually free of charge.

What is a highlight of your work with CML?
A highlight of my time with CML was hearing Maryland State Senator Thomas “Mike” Miller speak at one of our annual Conferences. He was passionate both about his personal library and about supporting the public libraries across the State.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:
The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83 1/4 Years Old by Hendrik Groen (pseudonym)

Joseph Thompson

What do you wish people knew about Maryland libraries?
How great we are at sharing resources! People who move from other states or countries may not realize how easy it is for them to get materials from other libraries – usually for free. We are extremely lucky to work in such a collaborative environment across Maryland libraries!

What is a highlight of your work with CML?
I’m grateful to be able to serve as the liaison between the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators (MAPLA) and the CML Board. CML, MAPLA, and other groups in Maryland work very closely to craft a common library advocacy message that makes sense to the communities we serve, and I really enjoy helping to bring these groups together and giving them the information they need.

Share the title of your favorite book(s) in the past year:
Grant by Ron Chernow

Citizens for Maryland Libraries is led by volunteer board members. In this issue, we get to know some of these dedicated members! We will continue to highlight Board members in future issues.
One Maryland One Book Connects Readers Across the State

If you are an avid user of your public library—and you likely are as someone connected to CML—then you’ve heard of, and hopefully even participated in, One Maryland One Book. It’s an annual reading and discussion program coordinated by the Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities that brings readers together in communities across the state around one book each year. Book discussions take place in libraries, high schools, senior centers, prisons, museums, and other community gathering spaces. The most avid organizers of discussions are public and high school libraries, where readers will find free copies of the chosen book. All are invited to participate in local programs in the fall.

The selection for 2022 is Naima Coster’s *What’s Mine and Yours*, a multigenerational saga centered on two North Carolina families, chosen based on the theme for the year, *New Beginnings*. Described as the story of what happens following the integration of two high schools, this novel is that and so much more. It follows two families over more than two decades as they are faced with familial upheaval, death, broken relationships, addiction, and maintaining lifelong friendships, making their way through a myriad of challenges to fight their way back to each other. This book is sure to strike a chord with readers.

From September to November, you will find book discussions and other programs related to the themes and topics of the book in communities across the state. In early October, Coster visited Baltimore City, Allegany, Charles, Frederick, and Howard counties as part of her book tour. If you didn’t have the chance to attend one of the events, you can sign up for her mailing list at naimacoster.com/.

If you’ve never participated in One Maryland One Book, this year offers a great opportunity to give it a try. Organizers have been told countless times over the 14 years of the program that the selected book offers an opportunity to pick up a book that they might not gravitate towards on their own—and most have enjoyed the read! If you’d like to learn more or find a program near you, visit onemarylandonebook.org.

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  

☐ Mary Lou Dewey Library Advocacy Fund  

☐ James Partridge Award  

☐ Nettie B. Taylor Leadership Fund  

I would like to contribute $_________ to support:  

Mail to:  

Citizens for Maryland Libraries  

1100 Green Valley Road  

New Windsor, MD 21776  

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

https://citizensformarylandlibraries.org

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