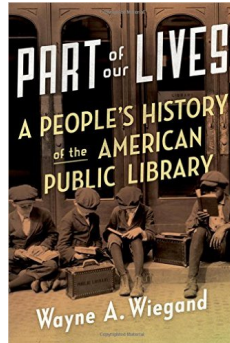


**The Maryland Library Association and the Virginia Library Association Partner with the Library of Congress for the September 15<sup>th</sup> Books and Beyond Program**



***“Part of Our Lives: A People’s History of the American Public Library”*  
Wayne A. Wiegand**

The Books and Beyond series, launched in 1996, features talks about newly-published books by authors who have written a book that has a special connection to the Library of Congress – to its collections or one of its offices or divisions.

Wayne A. Wiegand, often referred to as the “Dean of American library historians” is the F. William Summers Professor of Library and Information Studies Emeritus at Florida State University. He is the author of over one hundred scholarly articles and numerous books.

By taking a “bottom up” “library in the life of the user” approach in this exhaustively researched study, Wayne Wiegand offers a significant re-evaluation of the public library that affirms its essential role in American culture in new ways. He finds three main reasons why people have historically loved this ubiquitous civic institution: for the information it made accessible, for the public spaces it provided in which people constructed community, and for the commonplace reading it circulated that helped public library users make sense of their everyday lives.

*Part of Our Lives* is an insightful look at into one of America’s most beloved cultural institutions. Join us on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon for this bold challenge to conventional thinking about the American public library.

**Tuesday, September 15  
Noon  
Montpelier Room, Sixth Floor  
James Madison Memorial Building  
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C.  
Free and open to the public  
No tickets are required**

*Questions – contact the MLA office at 410-947-5090 or [mcarty@carr.org](mailto:mcarty@carr.org)*