In addition to these Contents pages, you can use Bookmarks to navigate through your Digital Magazine!
Editor’s Note

I hope that you are staying safe and healthy in these unprecedented times that we live in, Crab readers. Please enjoy this retrospective issue of the Crab to remind you of good times past and to think of a good future to come.

If you submitted an article for the Spring issue, it will appear in the Summer issue of the Crab.

In 2014, I posted the following message. It seems relevant again...

I recently acquired some of the very first issues of the Crab. Thus, for this month’s editor’s note, I wanted to share with you the very first Editor’s Note from the Crab, Volume 1, Number 1, Summer 1971, along with a corresponding recipe for Crab Soup. Enjoy this blast from the past, which you’ll find both is and isn’t all that different from the Crab today.

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor; Department of Legislative Services Library

The primary purpose of this newsletter will be to inform the members of the Maryland Library Association of activities and personnel within the organization. It will also carry national, state, and regional news affecting libraries and librarians in Maryland, activities of other library groups in the state, library school news, editorials, a calendar of coming events, and letters.

The success of THE CRAB will depend on the contributions of the members of MLA. We hope you will send us information to make this a lively means of communication among the members of the Association. The deadline for the next issue will be September 10, 1971. Please send your contributions to:

Miss Eleanor O. Hofstetter
Chairman, MLA Editorial Committee
Towson State College Library
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

or to any member of the Editorial Committee.

Even before we went to press, one member of MLA wrote and asked that we identify acronyms as he was confused by the alphabet soup he often found in library media. We will certainly try to be careful with acronyms but in the interests of space we will use EPPL, BCPL, and PGCML to identify certain large library systems in the state, and JMRT to identify that active division in MLA. If you do not know what these are, please ask a colleague.

A word about the name of this publication is also in order. It has no negative connotation. The lowly crustacean which brings so much enjoyment to Marylanders seemed an appropriate symbol of the state. We present below a receipt for our namesake.

Please respond to THE CRAB with a letter indicating your general or specific feelings about our efforts. We hope the stars are with us because most of the preparation for this first issue was done under the zodiacal sign of Cancer (the Crab)!
Any subject I may write about will be dwarfed by the overriding, overwhelming topic of how libraries, and people in general, are dealing with the pandemic. It is certainly the stuff that novels are made of, only this is nonfiction. I have watched in amazement as libraries across the country innovate, finding unique ways to reach out and support their community. No more so than the libraries in Maryland. We have found ways to provide materials for our customers, make our services available, hold programs via the internet and we have opened our facilities to help first responders and front line staff. In short, we have made, and continue to make, good things happen.

This has been a crazy year to serve as MLA President. Many unexpected things have occurred. Many new faces in the library world, in Annapolis, and in leadership across several counties. So much change, so many adjustments make the head spin. I can say, with certainty, that one of the constant, unchanging things I have seen is the dedication, the passion, and the excellence in service I see from the professionals serving in Maryland’s public, academic, school, legal, business, medical, and special libraries.

So this column is dedicated to you, the staff of Maryland’s libraries. You who took up the challenge on how to change library service not in years or even months, but weeks and days. You who made the effort to be accessible. You who met the needs of your community when asked. Well done! The leadership of our state, our boards, friends, and communities should be proud of you all. This should not be a surprise though. This is Maryland after all; we are library heaven.
MLA Officers Election Results For 2020-2021

The Maryland Library Association is happy to announce its leadership for 2020-2021!
Please join us in congratulating…

**MLA Officers**

**President**  
Morgan Miller

**Past President**  
Andrea Berstler

**Vice President/President Elect**  
Mary Anne Bowman

**Treasurer**  
Carl Olson

**Secretary**  
Conni Strittmatter

**ALA Councilor**  
David Dahl

**Conference Director**  
Tyler Wolfe

**Division Leadership**

**ACRL Maryland (Association of College and Research Libraries, Maryland)**  
Vice President: Sean Hogan  
Secretary: Bria Sinnott

**Children’s Services Division (CSD)**  
Vice President: Jill Hutchison  
Secretary: Katelyn McLimans

**Leadership Development Division (LDD)**  
Vice President: Krista Regester  
Secretary: Rhiannon Harlow

**Public Services Division (PSD)**  
Vice President: Lisa Swain  
Secretary: Melissa Lauber

**Support Staff Division (SSD):**  
Vice President: Teonja Jung  
Secretary: Jane Brown
Crabby History

On the following few pages, we present a small gallery of cover pages illustrating the design evolution of your Crab.

Working from archives we can access from home, here’s an early-ish example of a page from a Crab when it was a four-or-eight page black ink on white paper printed publication mailed to members. Those were the days.

Maryland Library Association Earns Seal of Excellence

MLA conduct certified ethical and accountable

The Maryland Library Association has been awarded the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organization’s Seal of Excellence for successfully completing the Standards for Excellence certification program. MLA voluntarily opened itself up to scrutiny by a “jury of peers.” The peer review team examined MLA for compliance with the Maryland Nonprofits Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector.

Standards for Excellence are based on fundamental values such as honesty, fairness, respect, trust, responsibility, and accountability. MLA programs and services, management, fundraising and financial practices were examined in depth before the certification was awarded. MLA is one of thirty-five organizations in Maryland to be certified under the Standards program that began in 1998 and is the first state library association in the nation to receive this recognition.

Margaret Carty, Executive Director of MLA comments, “The process of achieving the Standards for Excellence has been invaluable for the Maryland Library Association. The commitment of the board members and staff working as a team allowed us to scrutinize every aspect of our operations, resulting in a more effective organization, better prepared for the future. This prestigious certification assures the membership as well as the public that MLA conducts itself in an ethical and accountable manner. We will proudly display the Standards for Excellence logo.”

Past President Dolores Maminski commented that, “MLA is known within the Maryland Library community for the outstanding quality of its programs and services to people who work in libraries, and ultimately, to the patrons they serve. This award demonstrates our commitment to excellence in organizational management and integrity. Our experience in completing the rigorous certification requirements has been positive in affirming the value of the high standards we hold, and in enabling us to take a fresh look at the organization from top to bottom.”

Peter V. Berns, Executive Director of MANO, presents the award to (l. to r.) MLA Pres. Dara Cook, Past Pres. Dolores Maminski, Executive Director Margaret Carty and Asst. Superintendent Irene Padilla of DLDS.
Crabby Color

Some years later, discussions about printing the Crab in color ensued. After much backing-and-forthing, it was decided to eschew printing the Crab altogether, and distribute it as an interactive PDF publication.

Some few members did object to having to access the Crab online, but most welcomed the cost savings and the resulting ability to publish as many pages as could be gathered.

This initial digital color publication also saw your current editor introduced as Co-Editor.
Shortly thereafter, the format of the Crab was changed to a horizontal layout to better accommodate the monitors and laptop screens on which it’s being viewed.
And Now, for Your Enjoyment...

A small gallery of entertaining, enlightening and heartening tidbits from MLA’s past.

What a marvelous history!
Caption:
Unless indicated all staff are from the C. Burr Artz Library.
From left to right, Karin Tome, Georgie Van Brocklin, Pat James, Carol Lee (Walkersville Branch), Ann Gill, and Mary Mannix.
Cheerleader:
Susan Gray.
Photo by Julia Cubit, Official DDD Photographer.

See next page
Dewey Decimal Dancers

By Georgie VanBrocklin and Mary Mannix
Frederick County Public Libraries

The book cart drill team of Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) has formally received permission from Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) to call themselves the Dewey Decimal Dancers. Dewey and Dewey Decimal Classification are registered trademarks of OCLC. The drill team was created in 2000 at the suggestion of FCPL Associate Director (and MLA Past President) Dolores Maminski. Their mission is to promote reading, literacy, and libraries.

A group of seven librarians choreograph and perform precision drill routines to music, as well as dance with their decorated library book carts. The Dancers can be seen at local community parades representing FCPL, waving to enthusiastic crowds, and featuring library mascot “Sneaks the Cat.” An added bonus is the FCPL Bookmobile that blasts the team’s marching music from its loudspeakers. The Dewey Decimal Dancers have been awarded trophies and monetary prizes for their overall uniqueness and crowd-pleasing efforts in parades. They have twice received the grand prize in the City of Frederick’s yearly “In the Streets” parade. At Thurmont’s 250th Anniversary Celebration (2001) they were named “Best Overall Entry.” In 2003 they were awarded the 2nd Place Trophy for “Best Appearing Marching and Performing Units” at the Middletown Heritage Weekend. Prize winnings go back to the library to provide necessary materials for the community that enjoys the library.

The Dancers recently performed at the Montgomery County Public Libraries staff days. It was their first performance outside of their county as well as their first indoor performance. The Dewey Decimal Dancers were delighted to have the opportunity to entertain fellow librarians.

Please see also a contemporary news article posted online at the Frederick News-Post. These pictures were kindly provided by them for your amusement! (Courtesy The Frederick News-Post, Staff photographer Bill Green)
And… In the same issue, uncaptioned “Snapshots From Ocean City.”
Over 34,000 visitors experienced the “NASA@your library” exhibit at Lexington Park library from mid-December through mid-January. Circulation increased by 12% in December and 8% in January and eleven programs were enjoyed by nearly 1,000 patrons. Two astronauts, Captain Pierre Thuout and Astronaut Roger Couch, filled the room to capacity at their respective programs and a third presentation was added.
Congratulations to Dr. Carla Hayden

Recipient of Barnard College’s Barnard Medal

The Barnard Medal is the highest award that the college grants and Dr. Hayden received it at the college’s graduation ceremony held on May 17, 2005.

The following citation is reprinted with permission of Barnard College, Media Relations.

Carla D. Hayden. Librarian. Professor of Library and Information Sciences. Cataloger of knowledge. Protector of civil liberties. You have been a leading voice in the fight to safeguard our privacy and guarantee the free flow and open exchange of ideas in a time when our Nation faces difficult challenges.

You received your undergraduate education at Chicago’s Roosevelt University, with Masters and Doctorate to follow from the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. You began your career as Children’s Librarian at the Chicago Public Library and then became Library Services Coordinator at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry. The late 1980s found you at the University of Pittsburgh where you were Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science. In 1991, you returned to the Chicago Public Library as First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Librarian.

This wealth of experience brought you to the position you have held since 1993: Executive Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, one of the oldest free public library systems in the United States. Concurrently, you have been an instrumental member of the American Libraries Association, serving as its President for the 2003 to 2004 term and now, as Immediate Past President. It is in this capacity that you have placed yourself at the forefront of the debate over the USA Patriot Act, drawing national attention with your vigorous opposition to sections of the Act. You have consistently expressed, with clarity and passion, the vital importance of the protection of reading records and equity of access.

Your work is again and again honored: Librarian of the Year by Library Journal in 1995, Maryland’s Top 100 Women in 1996, Notable Black America Who’s Who Women in 2000, and Women of the Year by Ms. Magazine in 2003, an award you received with the following words, “I am proud to accept this honor on behalf of all library workers who defend Americans’ freedom to read freely without government interference.”

Today we praise your willingness to question the status quo, your advocacy of the rights we hold dear, your commitment to libraries as the cornerstone of democracy. We admire your extraordinary leadership and guidance in uncertain times.

Dr. Carla Hayden and economist Amartya Sen, a Nobel Prize winner, who was also awarded a Barnard Medal.

(This and next page: Volume 35, Number 4; Summer, 2005)
2005 Maryland Author

By Annie Young, Maryland Author Award Chair

At this year’s conference, the Maryland Author Award Committee was pleased to present the 2005 Maryland Author Award for Youth Literature to Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard. A picture book author, Howard was born in Baltimore and recalls her Maryland roots in many of her books, including the well loved *Aunt Flossie’s Hats* (and *Crab Cakes Later*).

Howard has been praised for her showcasing of strong intergenerational relationships and for her portrayal of African American families. These traits can be seen in *Flower Girl Butterflies*, which tells the story of a reluctant young flower girl who comes to embrace her role after interaction with her extended family, and in *Chita’s Christmas Tree*, where the author shows a loving relationship between a father and daughter.

Howard also follows a pattern of writing about her rich family history. At the conference’s “Meet the Authors” session, she shared the real life story related in *Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys*, showing photographs of the people and places portrayed. At the Author Award luncheon, Howard reflected on the influence of other family members (and favorite book characters)—Lulu, Aunt Flossie, and Chita.

Before she began writing, Howard was a children’s librarian and professor of children’s literature and library science. She received her M.L.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and taught library science classes both there and at West Virginia University. Her books have won various awards including an ALA Notable Book citation, Parents’ Choice and Teachers’ Choice Awards from the International Reading Association, and a Coretta Scott King Honor Award. The author currently lives in Pittsburgh.
MLA Delivers Holiday Cheer to Gulf Coast Library

By Laurie L. Hayes; Manager, Public Relations and Marketing, Anne Arundel County Public Library

Christmas came early for a Mississippi library ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Members of the Maryland Library Association (MLA) delivered a bookmobile and thousands of new books to the Pearlington Library, in Pearlington, MS, on Monday, December 19. In addition, MLA has contributed more than $10,000 to the Library for the purchase of other materials.

The gift was received with cheers and tears of gratitude by staff and patrons of the Pearlington Library, which until recently had been used as a shelter for Hurricane victims.

The Pearlington branch is one of more than 40 Mississippi libraries that suffered some degree of damage in the storm. The six year old facility, which served both an elementary school and the general public, had more than 20 feet of water wash through the building, destroying all of its contents. Traces of mud still clung to the ceiling of the building, which was empty save for a Christmas tree and donated holiday gifts for the Pearlington children.

Most of the homes in the community were either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the storm surge and high winds that accompanied Katrina. A makeshift town has sprung up in and around the library and school buildings with latrines, a general store of sorts and temporary housing.

Children and adults alike were excited to receive the books and other materials that they say will provide a welcome respite from their dire circumstances. In spite of unseasonably cold temperatures that have dipped into the 20’s at night, some of the Pearlington families are living in tents pitched on the concrete slabs that used to form the foundation of their homes. A majority of them have lost many or all of their possessions.

Marion Francis, administrator of the Anne Arundel County Public Library system, chairs the MLA committee in charge of the effort to help the Pearlington Library. A Mississippi native, Francis is the former administrator of the Jackson-Hinds (MS) Library system.

Francis was moved by her first glimpse of the devastation that littered the Gulf region of her home state. “It’s just heartbreaking to see what these people have gone through and continue to endure,” she says. “If we can help provide just a few moments of pleasant distraction for the families here who have suffered so much, this effort will have been worthwhile.”

MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty and AACPL Administrator Marion Francis present Hancock County Public Library Director Prima Plauche with a check for $4,000. This accounts for only a portion of the $10,000 that the Hancock County Library system has received from MLA thus far.
The MLA group included representatives from other public, academic and special libraries in the state, as well as media specialists from some of the public school systems.

The bookmobile was donated by the Allegany County Public Library (ACPL), which had planned to retire the vehicle next year. A retrofitted 1994 Bluebird bus, the bookmobile can hold approximately 3,000 items. ACPL Director John Taube and Allegany Circulation Assistants Jan Carder and Judy Castleman drove the bookmobile from Cumberland, MD, to Pearlington, a distance of approximately 1,200 miles. The three departed on Friday, Dec. 16, and made stops in Staunton, VA, and Chattanooga, TN. Accommodations were provided free by the Staunton Holiday Inn and Cabot Lodge North in Jackson, MS.

“When we were talking about possible ways to help this community, the idea of the bookmobile just clicked,” says Taube. “It’s a wonderful way to get the library up and running really in no time at all.”

A working library is an important symbol of normality, according to Taube. “You can come and pick up a book and find a way to relax and recharge, and do something that seems routine,” he says. “That was really my goal in bringing the bookmobile here—to give these people something that says, ‘We’re coming back.’”

The financial donations and new books came from Library systems throughout the state, as well as businesses, professional associations and private individuals. Recorded Books and Books on Tape donated materials. SirsiDynix, gave a laptop computer and software to be installed on the bookmobile.

MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty presented Prima Plauche, director of the Hancock County Library system, with a check for $4,000 to purchase additional materials. When added to funds that had already been sent, the monetary donations amounted to more than $8,000 and several thousand dollars more have been raised.

Carty also delivered holiday gift baskets and toys for the families of the staff at the Pearlington Branch.

“I am so very proud that the Maryland library community, schools, friends and citizens were willing to give so generously to a sister library in need,” she said.
“Maryland Libraries are FUNdamental”
By Andrea Littleton, Eastern Shore Regional Library

It is time to have some FUN, register now to attend: the 2006 MLA Conference is scheduled to be held on May 3, 4 and 5, 2006, at the Clarion in Ocean City, MD.

The conference brochures should be in your mail soon, or check out the online version at http://www.mdlib.org/conference/index.htm. If you do not receive your copy, contact the MLA office or visit the website.

New to this year’s conference: “Maryland Libraries are FUNdamental” t-shirts and tote bags. T-shirts come in “snazzy” lime green or white and have been designed with this year’s conference theme. Now you can proudly proclaim that “Maryland Libraries are FUNdamental.” Order forms can be found in the conference brochure.

This year’s conference is going to be FUN, so don’t miss it. There will be programs about literacy, building libraries, health, science, cataloging, assessment tools, teen spaces, communication and much more. There are over 30 programs that have been approved by DLDS for continuing education credits (final approval rests with the training coordinator in your library system).

The Featured Speakers should not be missed. Steve Johnson will explain how “Everything Bad is Good for You;” Richard Lee brings humor with his program called “What’s so funny about being a librarian;” and as the conference wraps up, you cannot miss David Deboy’s lively and interactive program on Team Fundamentals and last but not least come hear the ever popular library comedy group “Not Checked In” as they sing it like it is!

During the conference set aside time to visit with the vendors and don’t forget to sign up for the prize drawings. Stop by the MLA Store and the Silent Auction area to bid on the many items which are available. If you have any items for the auction contact Andrea Littleton (email deleted). See you at the conference!

Although these photos were published in black & white, we just had to use the color originals here. FUN!

Alas, there aren’t any photos of Not Checked In.
Harry Potter Book Release Party is a Huge Success!

Jen O’Halloran, Friends of C. Burr Artz Public Library

Where could you find muggles, witches and wizards of all kinds on Friday, July 20th? At C. Burr Artz Public Library, of course! The library branch celebrated the release of the seventh and final book of the Harry Potter series.

The event proved to be a huge success with approximately 2,000 people attending. The celebration began at 5 p.m. with entertainment such as a juggler, a fire eater, a stilt walker, a magician and random appearances by famous Harry Potter characters including Snape, Voldemort and Lucius Malfoy.

At 9 p.m., the doors opened and the participants enjoyed a wide selection of activities. Hungry attendees could get butter beer and sweets in Honeyduke’s Sweet Shop and watch the fourth Harry Potter movie, “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.” Participants interested in the future could visit the terrace and enjoy candlelit tea leaf readings while being serenaded by a harpist!

Diagon Alley provided school supplies and Hogwarts students could make their own quills, wands, and magic potions, or even attend a Herbology Class specializing in Mandrake Gardens.

“With all of the wonderful events going on, we were far from the daytime library” enthused Mary Cramer, CBA Branch Manager.

Children, teens, and adults of all ages poured into the library to enjoy all of the activities. Many attendees were dressed in costume, and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. Dozens of library staff members were also dressed in impressive costumes of characters from the series, which helped to create a joyous, enthusiastic atmosphere.

“We didn’t think it was possible to host a better event than our Harry Potter book 6 release party, but this year’s event more than doubled the fun of the previous party!” shared Children’s Services Supervisor, Sherry Quinones.
Maryland Libraries
Serving Their Communities
Volume 38, Number 2; Winter, 2008

 Teens using the CCPL Bookmobile after school.

Calvert Library, Fairview Branch, Children selecting summer reading.
School partnership + Brooklyn Park Library laptop + Students = Discovery.

Wicomico Public Library displays preschool curriculum for childcare providers.
Baltimore Orioles Collaborate with Libraries to Promote Summer Reading Club
Ruth Schaefer, Baltimore County Public Library

The Baltimore County Public Library is celebrating its first anniversary of Storyville, the unique, interactive early learning and literacy center for preschoolers, ages 0-5 years, to visit with their parents and caregivers. Storyville is located inside the Rosedale Library. A joint project of the Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library and the library that opened in February 2008, the colorful minitown of Storyville was designed as a catalyst for school readiness in a way that would make learning fun. One reporter called it “a literacy wonderland.”

Designed to simulate life in a small town, up and down Storyville Lane children and adults together mimic everyday life in the two-story house, theater, combination store and post office, construction site, Chesapeake Bay waterfront, baby garden and, of course, the library located in the center of town. After exploring the kitchen and its amenities, one mother remarked: “If it weren’t for the fact that I am way too tall for the kitchen, I think I could live here.”

During its first eight months, Storyville attracted over 50,000 visitors from more than 100 different ZIP codes. On February 7, 2009, when Storyville celebrated its first birthday, nearly 80,000 visitors will have benefited from its services. Circulation of library materials for preschool children rose by 21.5 percent since its opening.

When you have a chance to visit Baltimore, plan to tour Storyville and stay to play awhile. For a virtual tour, see www.bcplstoryville.org/storyville_tour.html.
Advocating for Libraries in Washington, DC

Natalie Edington, MLA Assistant Legislative Officer / Federal Coordinator

On Tuesday, June 29, over 1,600 library staff and library advocates, including over 100 people from Maryland, rallied on Capitol Hill in support of libraries. Red T-shirts worn by many attendees displayed the rallying cry “Vote for Libraries.” Even in the hot sun, loud cheers could be heard in response to the personal stories about the valuable role played by all types of libraries and what action Congress should take to help libraries. American Library Association (ala) President Camila Alire rallied the crowd, along with guest speakers and long-time library supporters, Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Representative Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), and Lauren Myracle, best-selling young adult author of several “banned books.”

After the rally, everyone was energized for the real work. Throughout the rest of the day, many advocates visited Congressional offices armed with “palm cards” highlighting three important messages: fund library programs, including the Library Services & Technology Act (Ista) and the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (iltsl) program; require a certified school librarian and library in every school in the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (esea); and support net neutrality and open Internet access for all.

Formal group visits to meet with members of Congress and their aides were held in the afternoon (or are scheduled for future dates, in some cases). The valuable face-to-face meetings allowed for more in-depth discussion of the issues and the actions desired, created an opportunity to highlight the successes and challenges of all types of libraries and helped to strengthen relationships between members of Congress and the library community.

For those who could not make it to Washington, DC, ala offered an alternative event—Virtual Library Advocacy Week. Library advocates were encouraged to contact their Congressional representatives by phone or electronically via Capwiz (http://www.capwiz.com) during the week of June 28 and share the same messages, along with personal stories.

Overall, it was a busy, yet productive day and week for libraries on Capitol Hill! Many thanks to everyone who participated and advocated for Maryland’s libraries!

For more wrap-up on Library Advocacy Day, including photos and a video of the speeches, see the Maryland Library Association Legislative Panel’s blog posting at http://wp.me/pG0FJ-9C.

The page is still up with plenty more photos!
The second annual Southern Maryland Library Night with the Blue Crabs was held July 30th at the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs’ stadium in Waldorf, Maryland. The evening event recognized the summer reading participants and also celebrated the public libraries of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties and their impact on the community.

The Southern Maryland Regional Library Association partnered with the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, a professional baseball club, to provide free game tickets to all summer reading participants. The regional library also provided prizes for children and 1,500 t-shirts which were given away at the game.

“This is a great opportunity to inform our community of the wide variety of programs available at their local libraries,” said Sharan Marshall, executive director of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association.

More than 650 children attended, using their free summer reading tickets, and they were able to participate in a pre-game parade around the infield. Other library supporters were able to purchase tickets at a discounted price using a promotional code developed for the library.

Sneaks, the library mascot, was also on hand to throw out the first pitch and mingle with fans.

Approximately 5,200 people attended the game and were informed of library services throughout the evening by a variety of public service announcements and several onscreen summer reading videos.
Remembering **Snowmageddon!**

In February 2010, the East Coast had two major snowfalls. Quoted from the WBAL website...


President Obama was among the many calling the events Snowmageddon. So, in the following year, your Editor wrote...

**Editor’s Note**

The winter season is now upon us. Along with the winter chill, we have a number of great articles in this issue. …

To combat the dreariness that often comes along with winter, you’ll find a lot of colorful photos, including photos from October’s Snapshot Day, highlighting the diversity of Maryland’s libraries, as well as photos from contributors that responded to the call for winter photos for this issue. Many thanks to all of the winter photo contributors. I greatly enjoyed seeing the sights from all around the state from last year’s winter storms and I hope that our readers do, too!

Annette Haldeman, Crab Editor

Here are a few reminiscences of Snowmageddon in Maryland libraries.
Photographer: Nina Krzysko, Howard County Central Branch

△ Howard County Library Central Branch book drop after the second February blizzard.

Howard County Library Central Branch DVD shelves between the two blizzards. ▶

Howard County Library Central Branch DVD returns after the February blizzards! ▶
Read Across America and Maryland!

Dr. Nancy Grasmick Joins Read Across America and Read Across Maryland to Highlight Reading at Baltimore County Public Library’s Storyville

Paula Isett, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services

The Maryland State Department of Education’s (MSDE) Division of Library Development and Services and Maryland Public Libraries invited Maryland residents to join Read Across Maryland and Read Across America to celebrate the importance of reading. In celebration of Read Across America and Read Across Maryland, Dr. Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, read a Dr. Seuss classic at Storyville at the Rosedale Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library. Storyville, an interactive early literacy learning center designed specifically for children ages birth to five and their families, is a positive place to celebrate reading since it is specifically designed for families and caregivers to help their young children enter school ready to learn.
Library TV Show Celebrates Its Second Year

The Talbot County Library’s popular cable television show “On the Shelf” is celebrating its second full year on the air. Co-hosted by the library’s Outreach Services/Volunteer Coordinator Sabine Simonson and the Avalon Foundation’s Kathy Hanna, “On the Shelf” airs almost daily on Talbot County’s local MCTV Channel 15.

Viewers of the program receive an entertaining overview of upcoming library programming, library services as well as short book and movie reviews.

Past editions of “On the Shelf” can be viewed at the library’s website, www.tcfl.org. These shows include interviews with children’s book author and illustrator Laura Rankin, writer Holly Black, and Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet Sue Ellen Thompson among others; tours of the library and its branches; a visit from Santa; segments on “Good Neighbor Day,” the Volunteer Appreciation luncheon, and a trip to the beach to talk about the Summer Reading Program.

“On the Shelf” is now the longest-running show on MCTV.

Kathy Hanna (L, both photos) of the Avalon Foundation and Sabine Simonson, of the Talbot County Free Library, co-hosts of the Talbot County Free Library’s cable television show, “On the Shelf.”
Frederick County’s Storyland: A Literacy Lifeline to Social Support

Marie Slaby and Robyn Monaco, Frederick County Public Libraries

Feather flowers scented with essential oils, knobby rubber balls, colorful musical shakers, and oversized books—these are a few of the sensory treats featured during Frederick County Public Libraries (FCPL) “Storyland” storytimes created specifically for children with developmental delays.

Initially, the library was contacted by staff of the Frederick County Infants and Toddlers Program (FCITP) on the possible creation of a library program that could be offered for developmentally delayed children from birth to age three. These delays could be sensory and motor skill issues, speech delays, or autism spectrum disorders, among others. The FCITP staff told the library staff that their families avoided coming to the library’s regular storytimes because their children were perceived as “different.” The children might be loud or very active, they might have a hard time focusing or participating in group settings, or they might look different from other children because of a handicap.

Through these initial discussions, it was realized that the library’s programs were not reaching a very important segment of our population—a group of families and children that could benefit greatly from the library’s programs and services.

But instead of hosting a separate storytime for these families, the FCITP staff suggested that the library...
create a program where the general public could attend as well. They hoped that the library staff could create an environment where children with developmental delays could socialize and interact with their regularly developing peers. The challenge was to build a program that could benefit both of these participants equally. The solution to the challenge was found in encouraging play.

While a big book or board book is still shared during the program, the majority of the time is spent with the children exploring and playing with tactile, musical, and even “smelly” objects. For instance, the librarians pass out animal shaped shakers that children move along with the music. Brightly colored cones and matching colored cars are explored and “driven” around the floor. Organic essential oils of lemon and orange are rubbed on toy flowers that the children take turns smelling. When rhymes or fingerplays are shared, each child is given two felt shapes of the rhymes’ subject to hold in each hand. Soft blocks are placed out near the end of the program for children to build and play with. These items and activities work not only to stimulate and teach the children, but also to give the parents confidence and skills to become literacy coaches for their own kids. An FCITP staff member attends each session to assist with the program, as well as to utilize a Picture Exchange Communication System for those who have difficulty verbally expressing themselves. The picture cards help kids know what to anticipate next in a sequence of activities and helps in managing their expectations.

After a competitive application and review process, Frederick County Public Libraries was awarded a grant from the Frederick County Women’s Giving Circle that allowed for the purchase of materials to create six Storyland Boxes. Many of these items are also typical toys that children might have at home, thereby giving the FCPL children’s librarians and FCITP staff the ability to demonstrate to parents the ways to interact with and teach their children with objects easily available to them. In addition, the funding allowed for the purchase of a board book to give to each FCITP child who attended the program. FCPL’s children’s librarians are communicating regularly with FCITP staff and everyone has learned a great deal from one another in the efforts to reach this population of children effectively. Since piloting the monthly storytime, there have been over 700 participants, the program has been expanded to four branches, and waiting lists are starting to grow as patrons hear more about the program.

Because many of S’s therapies are provided in the family’s home, “Storyland” is a library lifeline to social support. The programs are a great way for these families to connect with others who are facing the same challenges.
2011 Summer Reading Program Celebrates Participants
Field Ceremony Caps Baltimore Oriole Collaboration

Paula Isett, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services

John Smeallie, Deputy Superintendent of Maryland Public Schools, joined youth representatives from the Maryland Public Libraries’ Summer Reading Program at a pre-game ceremony on August 10th at Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles. For the fourth summer in a row, the Baltimore Orioles supported the Summer Reading Program by donating 40 tickets to every library branch in Maryland and honoring Summer Reading participants on the field.

In addition to the Orioles’ sponsorship, T. Rowe Price funded the dramatic and inspiring Oriole posters that hung in the libraries all over the state, promoting summertime reading fun. Participating in the night’s activities, an enthusiastic Mark Robinson, Director of Corporate Citizenship and Sponsorships with T. Rowe Price Associates, greeted each student. T. Rowe Price sponsored the Oriole posters and paid for the tickets that were used as incentives by the Summer Reading Program.

Derrick Day (Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped), enjoyed his first Oriole game.

Jontel Armstead (Charles County Public Library), proudly wore her national summer reading shirt.
Lights, Camera, Civility!

Joyce Garczynski, Albert S. Cook Library, Towson University

Last May, the staff of Albert S. Cook Library at Towson University needed to solve a problem. Finals were approaching, the library was becoming more and more crowded, and patrons were unintentionally disturbing others by talking loudly on their cell phones. The staff did not want to be the noise police, but something needed to be done. The library marketing committee ultimately decided to create a video to promote positive, civil behavior.

The marketing committee decided to model the video after the Liberty Mutual “Pay it Forward” advertisements where one person witnesses a kind act and then performs a kind act for someone else. Before they began to film, however, they entered the video idea into an Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) national contest for innovation. The video won for the in-process category and was recognized during the ACRL President’s Program at the 2011 American Library Association Conference in June in New Orleans.

Fresh off winning the innovation award, the library marketing committee began to create the video. First, they decided which kind acts would be portrayed and created a storyboard depicting the camera shots. Then, they began recruiting student actors. Since it was summer, they were concerned about student availability, so they offered $20 and pizza as an incentive. Only 10 actors were needed, but amazingly, over 40 students volunteered to be in the video. The filming took place in just three hours in early July and editing took less than a month.

On August 1 and 2, the marketing committee unveiled the video to the Towson community. The committee decided to concentrate promotional efforts on new students so they established a contest. To enter, first year students watched the video through an online survey link and then completed a short questionnaire. Those students who finished the survey were then eligible for a drawing to win free pizza. The video has over 600 views on YouTube and ultimately, the Cook Library marketing committee hopes that this video will create a more positive, civil culture in the library and across the university.

To view the Cook Library Civility Video, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHd2tCWFXoA&feature=youtu.be
Read Across Maryland Partnership Encourages Students to Read

Paula Isett, Maryland State Department of Education

Every year, the Cat in the Hat dazzles children and adults in celebration of the National Education Association’s (NEA) Read Across America and the birthday of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss. Two years ago, the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) formed a partnership with Governor Martin O’Malley, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Maryland Library Association, the Maryland Association of School Librarians, and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System to launch Read Across Maryland, a major literacy initiative emphasizing concentrated periods of reading throughout the month of March.

On February 29, 2012, the Radical Readers program, developed by MSEA for middle school students, prepared students at the two pilot schools, Walker Mill Middle School and Andrew Jackson Academy, to compete to win a Kindle Fire by reading at least 30 minutes a day for 30 days.

“The Wire” star and hip-hop artist Tray Chaney penned an original song and produced a video at Andrew Jackson Academy, where he was once a student. Chaney appeared at the kickoff to encourage the students to excel. His video can be found at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stM68r-FI54&feature=share.

On March 1, members of the Read Across Maryland team joined the “Cat in the Hat” and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown to enjoy a breakfast of “Green Eggs and Ham” with the students from the Eastport Elementary School in Annapolis.

The Radical Readers/Read Across Maryland finale was held at the Spauldings Branch of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. The Governor awarded top readers a Kindle Fire, purchased with funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services with oversight from the Division of Library Development and Services.

Tray Chaney, on the left, star of HBO series “The Wire”, is talking with Andre Tillman of Radio One, in Washington. Andre was instrumental in airing information about Radical Readers.
A Festival of Short Films:  
An Innovative Partnership with Teens

By Frazier Walker, Cecil County Public Library

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) hosted its third annual Cecilwood film festival on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Thirteen films, submitted by local teens, were judged by a committee with a six-point rubric, elements of which included originality, edited transitions, and proper use of sound effects and music.

This innovative program for teens included library-based classes on filmmaking, leading up to a submission deadline. CCPL coordinated with area schools, Cecil College and the county’s 4-H organization.

Young adult librarian Caroline Barlow remarked, “Cecilwood is a great event with growing impact on Cecil County. We have seen a rise in the number of submissions each year and the quality of entries has risen considerably.” She noted that teens can express themselves through telling a story, and they are learning valuable technology skills in addition to life skills: working with others, setting goals and meeting deadlines.

“The library constantly looks for ways to involve our teens and to encourage self-learning and success,” Ms. Barlow said. “Programs like Cecilwood offer a constructive alternative to poor choices teens may make when such opportunities are not available.”

A film festival for teens is a relatively low-cost program and uncomplicated event to host. Ms. Barlow contacted Cecil College’s film department and created two-part “Intro to Film” classes hosted at various branch locations. Fliers with links to submission requirements were posted via traditional and social media networks. Cooperation with area school librarians and film clubs was essential. “The hardest part is getting some teens to follow copyright rules. I hate to disqualify a film because they used music without permission,” stated Barlow. “But we’re learning to offer more guidelines and resources, such as freeplymusic.com. And next year, we may guide teen entries by creating thematic categories.”

One of the most satisfying results of Cecilwood is that it has captured the imagination of teens in an afterschool 4-H program in two low-income communities near the Elkton Central Library. Victoria Stone, program assistant for 4-H youth development, won an Adobe software “Youth Voices” Foundation grant so that her teens could have the equipment and technology to participate in Cecilwood. These low-income neighborhoods struggle with a 74% unemployment rate and 100% of the youth live below poverty level. “Our teens really engaged with this program. They had to defend their ideas before we allowed...
them to start their projects,” stated Ms. Stone. “As a result, they were dedicated and had pride in their films.”

Ashley Leonard, a 4-H'er who took second place in this year’s Cecilwood found the experience transformative. After learning to use the technology, equipment and software, Ms. Leonard has decided to attend Cecil College, pursue a career in film, and has a goal of working for Pixar Studios. “This is a student who previously had no intention of attending college,” stated Ms. Stone.
Cecil County Public Library’s “SPARK” Program Seeks to Stop “Summer Slide”

Writer: Frazier Walker, Cecil County Public Library

Many of us think of the playground, summer sun and fun when we hear the word “slide,” but for librarians and teachers, “summer slide” is the frontline of the battle for a child’s educational and future economic success.

Research has shown that a summer without learning and development can result in a growing achievement gap, especially for low-income students who have less access to educational materials and activities over break. Research has also shown that visiting public libraries is a powerful antidote to the summer slide.

“Our students face many challenges on a day-to-day basis, but one need specifically, is access to reading materials when school is not in session,” said Catherine Green, Principal of Gilpin Manor Elementary School in Elkton, Maryland. “During the summer months, many students do not engage in academic activities; as a result, they lose valuable knowledge that was gained during the school year.”

Cecil County Public Library (CCPL) has coordinated a successful summer reading educational program for many years. Recent summers have shown a marked increase in the number of students who are participating and tracking their reading throughout the summer.

Young Adult librarian Caroline Barlow commented, “One of the reasons the summer reading program is so successful, is because after a school year of guided reading, children can make their own selections of books that they enjoy. This got the library staff thinking, how can we take this enthusiasm to kids, including those who may not have access to the library during the summer?”

This observation, coupled with growing research about the detrimental effects of summer slide, led to the Cecil County Public Library’s development of an innovative new program, “SPARK.” CCPL’s “Students Progress and Achieve with Reading Kits” provided five books that are tailored to the reading levels, needs, and personal preferences of all graduating fifth and sixth grade students at two area schools, Gilpin Elementary and Elkton Middle.

“This reading program encourages middle school children to read throughout the summer,” stated Elkton Middle School Principle Elizabeth Cronin. “It can only help maintain the achievement they gain during the school year.”

Students filled out a SPARK survey that detailed the types of books they want to
read over the summer, similar to CCPL’s “Bookmate,” a service for adults and teens that the library already provides. When Ms. Barlow explained the program to a class, one student asked, “You mean I get to pick books I want to read, no one is telling me?” When Ms. Barlow’s confirmed that the books will be student choices, guided by librarian oversight based on reading levels, student enthusiasm swelled.

“They really attached to the idea that someone asked their opinion about their reading preferences. We anticipate a real change in attitude toward summer reading and we hope it reduces the threat of summer slide,” Barlow said.

“Our public library encourages learning and exploration throughout life, in every community” said Denise Davis, Director of the Cecil County Public Library. “We are open to everyone, every week of the year, nights and Saturdays. Our summer reading program—which enrolls over 5,000 Cecil Countians every summer—makes a huge difference to student performance—and is open to adults as well as children and teens.”

Rhonda Parsons, Media Specialist at Elkton Middle School stated in her letter of support for the program, “Allowing students to keep the books over the summer takes away the fear of finishing a book within a timeframe for struggling readers and puts parents at ease concerning overdue and late fines.”

“As school has just started, a full analysis of the results has not been finished,” stated Barlow. “We think this program will have an impact not only on students’ achievement, but improve their attitudes toward reading as well.”

This innovative program made such an impact that Cecil County Public Library applied for and won a grant to expand the program for the summer of 2013. SPARK will now include graduating seventh graders at Elkton Middle School as well as graduating 5th graders from Bainbridge Elementary.

“Our goal is to give children every opportunity to learn and thrive. Summer reading and the originality of the SPARK program is just one way we can help achieve that goal,” Davis said.
And now, until next time...

We hope you’ve enjoyed a little walk down memory lane, ending with the Crab for 2012. Archived issues from 2013 until now are still available in the archive at MLA.

See you soon!
The cover

The cover image of course doesn't directly involve MLA. It was found while trying to Google search for “old library maryland” or something similar, to give a nostalgic, “look-back” sense for this issue. And what a world of information it uncovered!

The picture we first found, (shown at right), was on the web page “Origins of the Library ’Bookmobile’ in Washington County, Maryland” published by Preservation Maryland. Contacting them, Meagan Baco told us the picture was not theirs. She referred us to a page at What’s Her Name to get permission for republishing the picture. It was a fascinating site…

“What’sHerName women’s history podcast is hosted and produced by academic sisters Dr. Katie Nelson and Olivia Meikle. Committed to reclaiming forgotten history, What’sHerName tells the stories of fascinating women you’ve never heard of (but should have). Through compelling interviews with guest historians, writers, and scholars, Olivia and Katie bring to life the “lost” women of history. Fascinating and funny, thought-provoking and thoughtful, What’sHerName restores women’s voices to the conversation.”

The page to which we had been directed was THE BOOK MISSIONARY: Mary Lemist Titcomb, Inventor of the Bookmobile. Well worth a look!

On that page, there were photographs attributed to “Washington County Free Library,” one of which was captioned “Joshua the bookmobile driver and patrons” and was the one we were looking for. Clicking through to “Washington County Free Library” took us to The First Bookmobile - Washington County Free Library, Maryland at WHILBR, Western Maryland’s Historical Library.* But alas, that page did not have the picture. We contacted them and received a very kind reply from Jill Craig, Digitization Librarian at Western Maryland Regional Library, giving us permission to republish, sending us a higher resolution and uncropped file, and interesting metadata, quoted at right.

Thanks to all who helped add this glimpse of the past to our Retrospective Issue.

*Western Maryland’s Historical Library is part of Western Maryland Regional Library, which provides services to the three Western counties of Maryland. WHILBR’s task is to put online the local history from the libraries, plus historical societies and individuals.

The URL cited above was the one we used as we were searching. Jill Craig asks that we also include a link to a new version of the WHILBR web site, as a migration is taking place.

Louise Frey of Ringgold identified the people in the photograph:

Man standing next to the book wagon horse-- Daniel Beard. Lady in wheelchair -- Lottie Beard, daughter of Daniel. She had suffered from infantile paralysis (polio). Little girl standing next to woman in wheelchair --Mary Catherine Leather (b. 1900). She, along with her two brothers, was raised by the Beards after her mother died. Mary Catherine’s daughter, Louise Frey, identified the individuals. Location of the photograph -- near Beard’s Church, on Beck Road near Smithsburg.

The man standing in front of the bookwagon horse was…

Joshua Taylor, the janitor at the Washington County Free Library, [who] became the driver of the book wagon between 1905 and 1910.

Joshua Thomas, a Civil War veteran and member of the GAR, had earlier served as the janitor in the library. He was listed on the 1910 census as a “Book Missionary” for the public library.
Keep up with MLA/ALA events...Share job openings...
Offer weeded items from your collection to others...Ask a question!

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