



The Digital Magazine of the Maryland Library Association  
Volume 54, Number 1 • Fall, 2023



**Maryland Association of  
Counties Conference:  
Libraries Build Bridges ►**



## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Maryland Association of Counties Conference: Libraries Build Bridges ♦

10

The information contained in a local library can create bridges between people, experiences, and many other aspects of an individual's life. Maryland Library Association members drove this point home to the legislators and government officials that visited their booth during the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference in August in Ocean City, Maryland.



### ♦ Highlights from the Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference 30

In a world where libraries are constantly evolving, the 2023 Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference served as a beacon of positivity and innovation. This annual public service conference, designed to empower library staff throughout Maryland, took place over two days in August.





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## Editor's Note

Autumn is here and full of Maryland Library Association activity and excitement! We're pleased to welcome and congratulate our new MLA President, Tiffany Sutherland, and Vice President/President Elect, Teonja Jung. Tif's first President's Message provides timely, valuable information about their MLA goals for the year and recent news affecting library workers in the state – plus, the opportunity to purchase MLA-themed merchandise in the new MLA store!

Our 2024 MLA Conference Director, Anita Crawford, plans on sharing conference updates with *Crab* readers throughout the year. Anita's first article includes news about the conference theme, the search for a keynote speaker, and program proposals and other volunteer opportunities. Follow her quarterly updates as the conference committee's work progresses, and please – save the date! Mark your calendars for May 8-10, 2024.

In other news: columns! One of our goals this year has been to make *the Crab* a recurring platform for interest groups, panels, caucuses, divisions, and committees to share their news, events, discussions, and areas of interest, with quarterly columns written by group members about topics of their choosing. We have consistently published the engaging book reviews of the Reader's Advisory Interest Group (RAIG) and featured a column from NASA's Night Sky Network. In the summer issue, we added columns for the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Panel and the Future of Libraries Interest Group (FOLIG), who had already contributed regularly. For this issue, we're delighted to debut columns from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) – Maryland chapter, the Intellectual Freedom Panel (IFP), and MLA's two newest interest groups, the Materials Interest Group (MIG) and the Emerging Adults Interest Group (EAIG). In celebration, the Library People feature this month focuses on the dynamic leaders of MIG and EAIG, Laura Bandoch



and Stephanie Wiant. Read about their professional and personal interests and the goals they have for these new groups. These library leaders are dedicated, passionate about their interest groups, and very busy serving MLA and their communities.

Our next issue will be a Centennial celebration - a recap of the Centennial Carnival, coming up on November 3 at the Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library. We hope to see you there! From our archivist, we'll also share a look back

at the 100-year history of the Maryland Library Association as well as a look ahead at what we're working towards in the future. As always, if you have something you'd like the MLA community to know about, please send your upcoming events or stories of success to share with readers of *the Crab*. We welcome your contributions!

**Julie Fitzpatrick, MLA Crab Editor**  
**Howard County Library System**



# President's Message

*Tiffany Sutherland, MLA President  
Calvert Library*

**P**ROBABLY SURPRISING TO EVERYONE, no one more than me, I am not starting this, my first President's Message, with a Taylor Swift-themed intro (ideas I scrapped: It's me, hi, I'm MLA President, it's me.; and, Are you ready for it...?). I am elated to be the current President of the Maryland Library Association. I have been an active member of MLA for over ten years, and this role is a privilege that I am beyond excited to fill.

As an elected official representing the members of the Maryland Library Association, my goals for the year embody tasks that MLA members also prioritize and will work towards the edification of the entire Maryland library community. They are:

- 🛠️ Update bylaws, including restructuring association units
- 🛠️ Actively engage members of affiliate organizations
- 🛠️ Support and distribute intellectual freedom trainings and information so all library workers feel prepared to combat potential threats to access
- 🛠️ Advocate for funding and support for all Maryland libraries
- 🛠️ Work with MLA units and the Professional Development Officer to offer continuing education opportunities fueled by the strategic plan to MLA members and the Maryland library community

These tasks will require the support and assistance of MLA members and the greater Maryland library community—so be sure you keep an eye on [MLA Connect](#) and the [MaryLib listserv](#) for calls to action.

This year, the MLA Board has already approved a new Interest Group (the Emerging Adults Interest Group) and discussed ways to restructure the association's units for easier access for our members - of which there are many more now, due to the new Affiliate Member organizations. The Conference Committee, led by the stellar Anita Crawford, is planning a dynamic 2024 conference full of spirited speakers, dynamic programming, and social events sure to please everyone. The Legislative Panel is working on enhancing advocacy training so that all Maryland library workers are aware of library-related legislation locally and at the federal level and are prepared to explain why decision makers need to support and fund libraries of all types throughout the state.

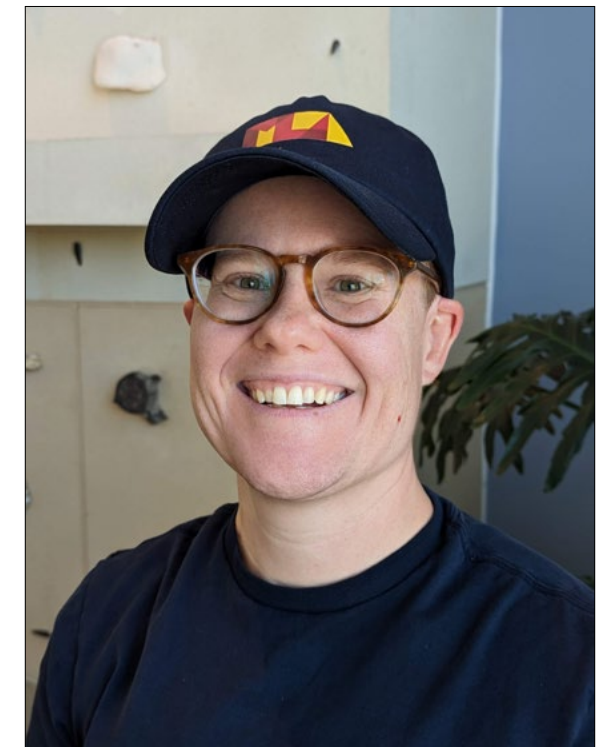
In addition to the work the Board, Panels, Divisions, Committees, and Interest Groups are doing, last week, Josh (MLA's Executive Director) and I traveled to Westminster to



*Baltimore CBS affiliate WJZ interviews Tif at the Carroll County Board of Education meeting on September 13.*



*Tif sports an MLA Dad hat from the new [MLA merchandise shop](#).*



attend the Carroll County Board of Education meeting. There, we joined several MLA members to demonstrate our support for intellectual freedom and school librarians and our opposition to attempts to censor library materials and limit personal and familial choice. Watch [this CBS Baltimore - WJZ segment from September 13](#) for more information. As MLA's President, I will do what I can to support and prepare all library workers to challenge any attempts to censor access to library resources.

In preparation for our exciting upcoming year, visit the [MLA merch shop](#) to gear up! I look forward to seeing everyone at the [Centennial Carnival Celebration on November 3](#). 1, 2, 3,—let's go! (that is a Taylor reference). ■



# Celebrate at MLA's Centennial Carnival

*Joshua Stone, MLA Executive Director*

Step right up and join us for the Maryland Library Association's Centennial Carnival! For 100 years, MLA has been one of the premier organizations in the country providing library advocacy, professional development, and networking, and we want to celebrate that with you. The Centennial Carnival will feature guest speakers, music, food, drinks, and of course, carnival games! All attendees will receive a commemorative tote bag along with ten game tickets. Extra game tickets can be purchased at the event. Additionally, we'll have the last remaining MLA Centennial Enamel Pins available for sale. Each enamel pin is \$10.

Don't miss out—[register](#) today and secure your spot at the library party 100 years in the making! Questions? [mla@mdlib.org](mailto:mla@mdlib.org).

Tickets: \$45

**Thank you to our Sponsors!**

Center Ring Sponsor: Quinn Evans Architects

Big Top Sponsor: Maryland Relay

Side Show Sponsors: Baltimore County Public Library and Montgomery County Public Libraries

Popcorn and Candy Apple Sponsors: Becker Morgan Group and Cecil County Public Library ■

**CARNIVAL**

**MLA**

**REGISTRATION FOR THE MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S CENTENNIAL CARNIVAL CELEBRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**3 November 2023 | 6:30-9:30 PM**

**Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library**

Scan, Click [HERE](#) or Visit the MLA website to register!



# MLA/DLA Conference Update

Anita Crawford,  
MLA Conference  
Director,  
Baltimore County  
Public Library

Each season I will be covering updates and news from the MLA/DLA Conference Planning Committee and bringing you along on the planning process. The team has begun preliminary planning alongside the Delaware Library Association (DLA) for our last MLA/DLA conference at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland. MLA Executive Director Josh Stone is looking to move the conference to Ocean City in 2025. Chelsea Shockley, my Conference Co-Chair, and I are excited to work with the planning committee to have an amazing last conference in Cambridge.

## Save the Date:

May 8 - 10, 2024 at the beautiful [Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina](#) in Cambridge, Maryland.

## Theme:

The Conference Planning team has selected a theme for this year. The theme draws inspiration from springtime and the innovation that is grown and cultivated in every library in Maryland and Delaware. The 2024 conference theme is Seeds of Change.



## Keynote Speaker Search:

With previous years' conference speakers spanning from Justina Ireland to R. Eric Thomas, we are excited to see who will come onboard this year as our keynote speaker. Chelsea Shockley and I will be reaching out to a few speakers who have been identified through previous conference feedback and during our Conference Planning meetings. We hope to announce our keynote speaker very early in the new year.

## Program Proposals:

Proposals for the conference were accepted from September 5 - October 15. The committee will look over all the proposals and determine what programs are accepted this year, and the team will contact the selected presenters shortly!

## Poster Sessions are Back in 2024:

Thank you to the Association of College and Research Libraries, Maryland (ACRL-MD) and Alex Dodd for writing a proposal to bring back Poster Sessions in 2024. We will have more details about what this will look like as we get closer to the conference. I can tell you now that they are looking into a virtual component to happen, and the MLA Office will be looking for a space for the poster sessions where engagement and participation will be easier than the main hallway of the conference.



*Participants gather for learning opportunities and social activities at the 2023 MLA/DLA Conference.*

*Photos courtesy of Amber Farran, Carroll County Public Library.*





## Virtual Conference Opportunity:

Our present conference location creates challenges in holding a virtual conference in tandem with the live conference. Because of this, Chelsea, Josh, and I are looking for opportunities to engage more staff across the state in 2024 with content from the conference. ACRL-MD moving aspects of the poster session to virtual allows for an opportunity to potentially create a virtual component of the conference before the in-person conference on May 8 - 10, 2024, so we can reach more staff.

This idea is still in the preliminary stages, so we are not 100% certain if we will be able to roll it out this year, but we think we can at least lay some groundwork to potentially add this component next year.

## Social Committee:

This year, Jo Powers from MLA and Catherine Wimberley from DLA are leading the Social Committee of the Conference Planning Committee. The team is already getting the ball rolling on planning karaoke and trivia and is investigating the possibility of a social event on Tuesday evening, for those arriving early to attend pre-conference sessions on Wednesday.

In addition, the committee is working in conjunction with BCMLA to host their meet and greet and the Harriet Tubman tour, like they planned last year.

## Who Can Come to the Conference?

One statement that I have heard before is that the MLA/DLA Conference is only for librarian-level staff. As someone who has spent almost 20 years in the library profession as a circulation worker and now a Headquarters/Administrative Office staff member, I have been able to attend five or six conferences at this point. And I have amazing news for those who have considered the MLA/DLA Conference a librarian-only event: it is not just for librarians! I

found many programs that helped me in my work and networked with so many library workers across the state at the MLA/DLA Conferences.

The Support Staff Division plans several programs for the conference which speak to the work of Technology Support, Circulation Staff, Technical Services, and Human Resources departments. With the addition of the Black Caucus of MLA, the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel, the LGBTQI+ Interest Group, the Emerging Adults Interest Group, and the Materials Interest Group, we have even more opportunities to ensure that the conference has programs and learning opportunities for all.

Staff at all levels in public, private, school, and academic libraries are encouraged to inquire within their organizations to see what level of support is available for them to attend. I know we have many members new to MLA, and I would love to see new faces engaging in networking and learning new things to bring back to their workplaces this year!

## TL;DR:

**Staff at all levels are encouraged to attend and I need your help to spread the word!**

If you have any feedback, questions, or suggestions you can get in contact with Chelsea and I here: [md.la.conference@gmail.com](mailto:md.la.conference@gmail.com) ■



*Participants gather for learning opportunities and social activities at the 2023 MLA/DLA Conference.*

*Photos courtesy of Amber Farran, Carroll County Public Library.*





# Advocacy for Intellectual Freedom: Defending Our Collections Discussion Series

Monica McAbee, Prince George's County Memorial Library System

As book challenges intensify nationwide, MLA's Intellectual Freedom Panel invites you to join us for four new discussions regarding censorship. We will focus on a specific book, article, or video for each discussion, examining current concerns in freedom of access and expression.

Please note that these discussions will not be recorded, and that no continuing education credits will be granted.

## Defending Our Collections

Each discussion will be held from 1:00—2:00 p.m. on MLA Connect.

**November 1, 2023**

Topic: Free Speech - Is It for Everyone?

Please read [Free Speech for Me but Not for Thee: How the American Left and Right Relentlessly Censor Each Other](#), by Nat Hentoff

Facilitator: Arthur LaRue

**January 3, 2024**

Topic: Review Bombing

Please read: ["How Review-Bombing Can Tank a Book Before It's Published"](#) by Alexandra Alter and Elizabeth A. Harris, June 26, 2023 (*The New York Times*) [Note: to access this link, you need a subscription to *The New York Times*]

Facilitator: Laura Bandoch

**March 6, 2024**

Topic: Data and Privacy

Please read: [Data Cartels: The Companies That Control and Monopolize Our Information](#) by Sarah Lamdan

Facilitator: Andrea Boothby Rice

**May 1, 2024**

Topic and facilitator to be determined.

Please note the following regarding how to get a

Tradewing account to gain access to MLA Connect (the platform on which the discussions will be hosted):

You do not need to belong to the Maryland Library Association to get an account.

At <https://mla.tradewing.com/login>, click the button that says "Sign Up" and fill in your name and email address.

You will receive an email for verification followed by instructions to finish setting up your Tradewing account.

Once you have an account, click on Events and RSVP for the program you want to attend.

The day of the program, go to that same Events page and click to join the program.

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# Libraries Build Bridges

## Maryland Association of Counties Conference

*Amy Miller Meyers, Carroll County Public Library*

*Conference photos courtesy of Joe Thompson, Carroll County Public Library; Sabine Simonson, Talbot County Free Library; and Jim DeArmey, Citizens for Maryland Libraries.*

The information contained in a local library can create bridges between people, experiences, and many other aspects of an individual's life.

Using a model of the Bay Bridge covered with library materials as a focal point helped Maryland Library Association members drive this point home to the legislators and government officials that visited the MLA booth during the Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference from August 16 to 18 in Ocean City, Maryland. Many officials, including Governor Wes Moore and his wife, First Lady Dawn Moore, shared stories of how libraries had positively affected their lives and reiterated their support for the right to read.



*Governor Wes Moore reacts to a sign promoting reading.*

*Sneaks in front of the Maryland Library Association booth.*





*Governor Wes Moore accepts a Let Freedom Read bracelet from Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla.*







*Governor Wes Moore poses with Andrea Berstler, Carroll County Public Library; Tamar Sarnoff, Maryland State Library Agency; Josh Stone, Maryland Library Association Executive Director; and Morgan Miller, Cecil County Public Library.*





*First Lady Dawn Moore meets Aibo, Harford County's robotic dog, with Mary Hastler, Harford County Public Library, and Maryland State Librarian Irene Padilla.*





*First Lady Dawn Moore chats with Sneaks, the Maryland Summer Reading mascot.*





*First Lady Dawn Moore stopped by to show her love of libraries and reading! L to R (front): Catie Hall, Frederick County Public Libraries; Kati Townsley, Carroll County Public Library; MLA Executive Director Josh Stone. L to R (back): Leslie Greenly Smith, Harford County Public Library; Mary Hastler, Harford County Public Library; State Librarian Irene Padilla; (First Lady Dawn Moore); Andrea Berstler, Carroll County Public Library; Morgan Miller, Cecil County Public Library; Elizabeth Hulett, Western Maryland Regional Library.*





*Comptroller Brooke Lierman shows that Leaders are Readers!*

*L to R: Kati Townsley, Carroll County Public Library; State Librarian Irene Padilla; (Comptroller Brooke Lierman); Carrie Willson, Calvert Library; Mary Hastler, Harford County Public Library; Sabine Simonson, Talbot County Free Library.*





*Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones shows her support for Maryland libraries.*

*L to R: Andrea Berstler, Carroll County Public Library; Morgan Miller, Cecil County Public Library; (Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones); Natalie Edington, Baltimore County Public Library; State Librarian Irene Padilla; MLA Executive Director Josh Stone.*





*Sneaks with former Maryland State Senator Michael Mitchell.*





*Prince George's County Council member Ingrid Watson supports the right to read.*





*Carroll County Commissioner Tom Gordon hangs out with Sneaks, Maryland's Summer Reading mascot.*





*Carroll County Commissioner Michael Guerin snaps a selfie with Sneaks.*



*Dave Fischer, staffer for Andy Harris, chats with Sneaks about libraries.*







*William Reddish, staffer for Andy Harris, poses with Sneaks.*





*Prince George's County shows how to "bee" happy with Sneaks!*





*Hanging with bay creatures from the Maryland Lottery.*





◆ Sneaks is ready for a day on the water thanks to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Sneaks is ready to read the 2023 One Maryland One Book selection, *There There* by Tommy Orange. ◆





*Joe Thompson, Carroll County Public Library, and Sabine Simonson, Talbot County Free Library, grab a selfie with Sneaks.*







*Sneaks checks out Worcester County Library's new Pop-Up Library, funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Maryland State Library Agency.*





*The Pop-Up Library has something for everyone! Sabine Simonson, Talbot County Free Library, with Sneaks.*



# Highlights from the Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference

*SLRC Circulation Team*



**I**N A WORLD WHERE LIBRARIES ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING, the 2023 Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference served as a beacon of positivity and innovation. This annual public service conference, designed to empower library staff throughout Maryland, took place virtually via Zoom on August 22, 2023, and in person at the State Library Resource Center/Central Library of Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 23, 2023. Let's delve into the uplifting highlights of this two-day event that celebrated learning, growth, and community.

## Virtual Keynote Session: "Make the Workplace Your Stage!"

The conference kicked off with an inspiring virtual keynote session titled "Make the Workplace Your Stage!" presented by Levi Branson, Circulation Services Supervisor at C. Burr Arts Public Library, and Anita Crawford, Processing Supervisor at Baltimore County Public Library. Using a theater production workplace as an analogy, they encouraged attendees to increase self-awareness and foster professional relationships to create a balanced work environment. By looking at their work experience through a different lens, participants were inspired to refocus their perspectives on what is possible and positive, ultimately helping them shine in their roles.

## Unique In-Person Sessions

The conference's in-person sessions were a highlight for those who had the opportunity to attend. One standout was the "Rooftop Dance Party: A Celebration of Joyful Movement!" Against the backdrop of Baltimore's skyline, attendees engaged in an invigorating dance session that not only promoted physical well-being but also fostered a sense of unity and joy.

In a session entitled "Building Joy-Centric Libraries," Becky Hass, Programming and Outreach Manager at Anne Arundel County Public Library, led an interactive workshop that



*Ginger Diallo, Circulation Desk Supervisor, Enoch Pratt Free Library, leads conference attendees in a dance workout routine on the SLRC/Central Library's rooftop deck.*

offered a fresh perspective on library work. In a profession that often faces work fatigue, the workshop provided a much-needed dose of positivity. Becky's session focused on the principles of positive psychology, demonstrating how they can improve staff and customer retention while boosting workplace morale. Attendees learned practical tools to infuse joy into their work and combat burnout. This workshop was not only informative but also a reminder that libraries are not just about books; they are about people and



the joy they can bring to their communities.

For the first time ever, SLRC provided a full certification course for library staff. This invaluable in-person session was the CPR/AED/Narcan training provided by CINTAS. In a world where safety is paramount, library staff gained essential life-saving skills. This certification empowers them to respond effectively in emergencies, ensuring that libraries remain safe havens for all.

In “Accessibility at the Circulation Desk,” attendees delved into the crucial topic of serving customers with disabilities. EPFL staff shared best practices for terminology, communication, and customer service. Attendees discovered innovative ways to make library spaces and resources more accessible, ensuring that everyone in the community can benefit from library services. The session also highlighted local and national resources to expand knowledge and support libraries in their quest to provide equitable access to all.

The tour of EPFL’s Library of Things collections and demonstration of items available through the Maryland State Library Lending Program showed firsthand that libraries have transcended their traditional roles. They have evolved into dynamic hubs for resources of all kinds. From NASA STEM kits to the latest in virtual reality gear, this collection enriches patrons’ lives by offering library staff across the state an array of items to borrow to support programming needs.

With a diverse range of informative sessions, the 2023 Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference exemplified SLRC’s commitment to professional development, holistic learning, well-being, and inclusivity. It reaffirmed the vital role libraries play in their communities and showcased the library community’s dedication to continuous improvement and its unwavering focus on creating joyful, safe, and accessible spaces for patrons.

## Sweet Endings and New Beginnings

As the 2023 Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference came to a close, attendees were treated to a delightful visit from the Taharka Brothers Ice Cream truck. This sweet surprise not only provided a satisfying conclusion to the event but also symbolized



*Megan Heburn, Project Manager, State Library Resource Center, guides conference attendees through demonstrations of VR equipment available through the Maryland State Library Lending Program.*



the end of an era and the dawn of exciting new beginnings.

For many, it was bittersweet to learn that this would be the last Maryland Statewide Circulation Conference. However, this ending marks the beginning of an exciting transformation. In 2024, the conference will undergo a name change, reflecting the evolving landscape of libraries and the expanding role of circulation services.

As a lasting memento of the event, participants received t-shirts bearing the phrase, “Circulation: The heart of the library.” This statement captures the essence of the conference and the vital role that circulation services play in the library ecosystem. It serves as a reminder that the heart of any library beats with the circulation of knowledge, connecting communities and enriching lives.

As always, SLRC conferences and training programs are free for all Maryland library staff. For more details about this and other SLRC conferences, please visit [www.slrc.info/conferences](http://www.slrc.info/conferences).

We hope to see you next year!



◆ Conference attendees participate in a two-hour CPR/AED/Narcan training provided by Cintas.

SLRC Deputy Chiefs Genive Purchase and Michael Johnson lead conference attendees on a tour of the State Library Resource Center, highlighting some of the library’s unique collections. ◆







## Caucus

### Black Caucus Of The Maryland Library Association

- Current focus:
  - Providing a safe space to discuss and decide upon a course of action on issues of concern to our members
  - Promoting equal job opportunities, professional development, provide mentorship opportunities
  - Promoting actions to improve the work environment of our members and to improve the quality of library service in Black communities

## Divisions

### Association Of College And Research Libraries, MD

- Current focus:
  - Connecting academic and research library workers
  - Providing a safe space for discussing current issues and topics related to academic and research libraries
  - Creating leadership and volunteer opportunities for academic and research library workers

### Children's Services Division

#### Leadership Development Division

- Current Focus
  - Committed to providing development opportunities to leaders from any position
  - Career success of aspiring, new, and long-time leaders
  - Exploring creative learning opportunities to offer throughout the year

### Public Services Division

- Current Focus
  - Providing quality programming for MLA year-round
  - Supporting two Interest Groups that fall under our Division OSIG (Outreach Services Interest Group) and MAPIG (Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group); Please consider joining one or both of these interest groups!

### Support Staff Division

## Committees and Panels

### Intellectual Freedom Panel

### Legislative Panel

### Professional Development Panel

### Marketing Committee

### Maryland Author Award

## Interest Groups

### Emerging Adults Interest Group

### Future Of Libraries Interest Group

### Government Information Interest Group

### LGBTQ+ Interest Group

### Library Advocacy Interest Group

### Maryland Adult Programming Interest Group

### Materials Interest Group

### New Members Interest Group

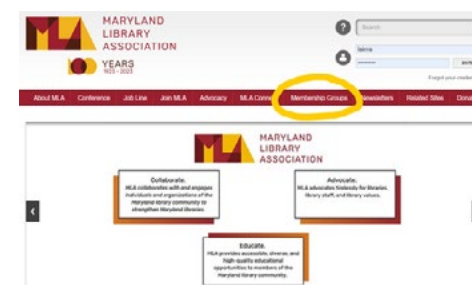
### Outreach Services Interest Group

### Readers' Advisory Interest Group

### Technical Services Interest Group

### Teen Interest Group

With your MLA membership, you can join new Divisions, Committees, and Interest Groups at any time on the MLA Website or by emailing [mla@mdlib.org](mailto:mla@mdlib.org)!





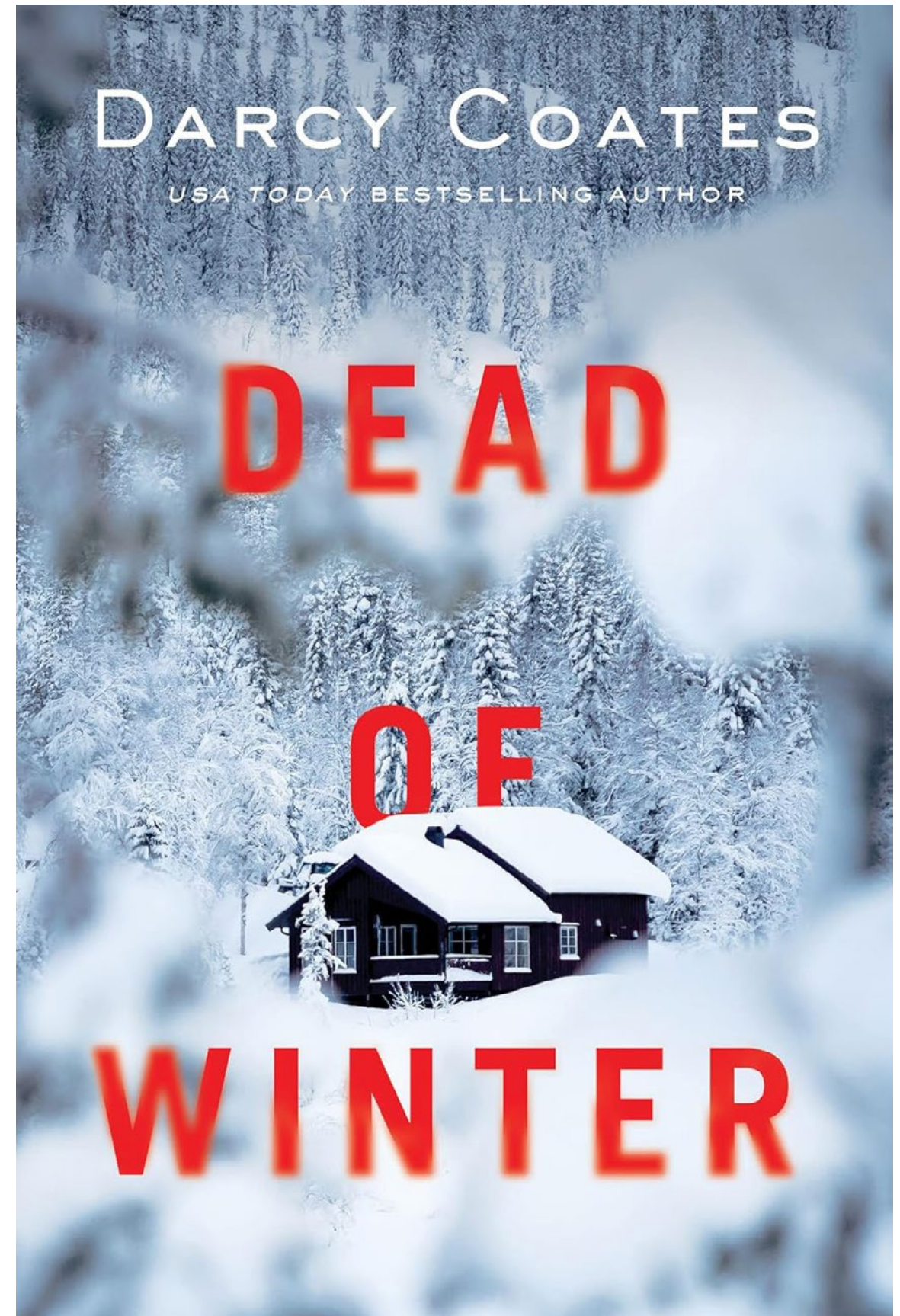
# OutRAIGeous Reviews

*Books recommended by members of  
the Reader's Advisory Interest Group*

***Dead of Winter* by Darcy Coates (Poisoned Pen Press, 2023)**

***Review by Amy Jenkins***

Have you ever covered your eyes during a scary movie? And then, have you bravely peeked through your fingers to watch a little more? If so, I have the perfectly twisted book for you. Eight strangers board a tour bus to stay at a hotel. A downed tree and severe winter weather block the way. The strangers take residence in a hunting cabin. Violence ensues. Slowly, people are picked off one by one. There is a killer on the loose, so don't sleep with your eyes closed or you could be next!



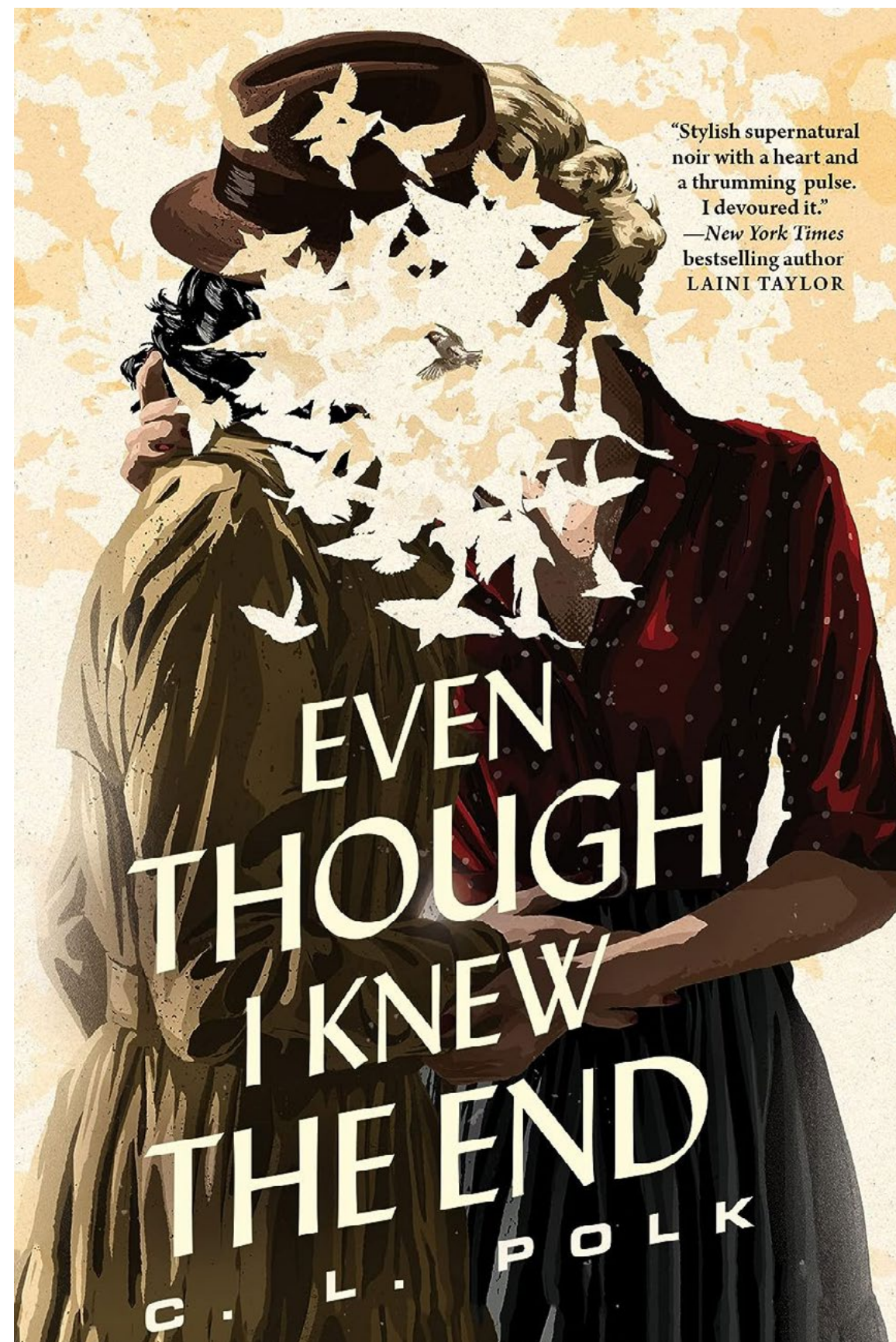


***Even Though I Knew the End* by C. L. Polk (Tordotcom, 2022)**

**Review by Chloe Scully**

Elena Brandt is the hardboiled detective of mystery noir past, with her private eye set up in a magical 1930s Chicago and a lady love waiting in the wings for her. However, Elena's days are numbered and she decides to spend the last of them with said lady love, Edith. Just as she is about to leave the city, a potential client offers her \$1000 to find the White City Vampire, Chicago's most notorious serial killer. To sweeten the pot, the client offers something more precious—the chance to grow old with Edith. As Elena dives into the affairs of Chicago's divine monsters to secure a future with the love of her life, she learns that nothing is as she thought it was.

*Even Though I Knew the End* is an entrancing look at a Chicago that hell and heaven battle over and the magic users who try to protect the citizens. The setting that Polk creates is so intricate that I would love to read a longer-length novel exploring more of the city itself, as well as deepening the dynamics between the characters of Elena, Edith, and Ted. I would highly recommend this mystery noir for fans of *Last Night at the Telegraph Club* and *Good Omens*, as well as for readers who are looking for a quick read. The book is a mere 136 pages long and I read it in about ninety minutes, even as I reread the climactic end over and over. If you want a read that will capture your mind and heart for an afternoon, then you will want to place your hold for C. L. Polk's *Even Though I Knew the End*.



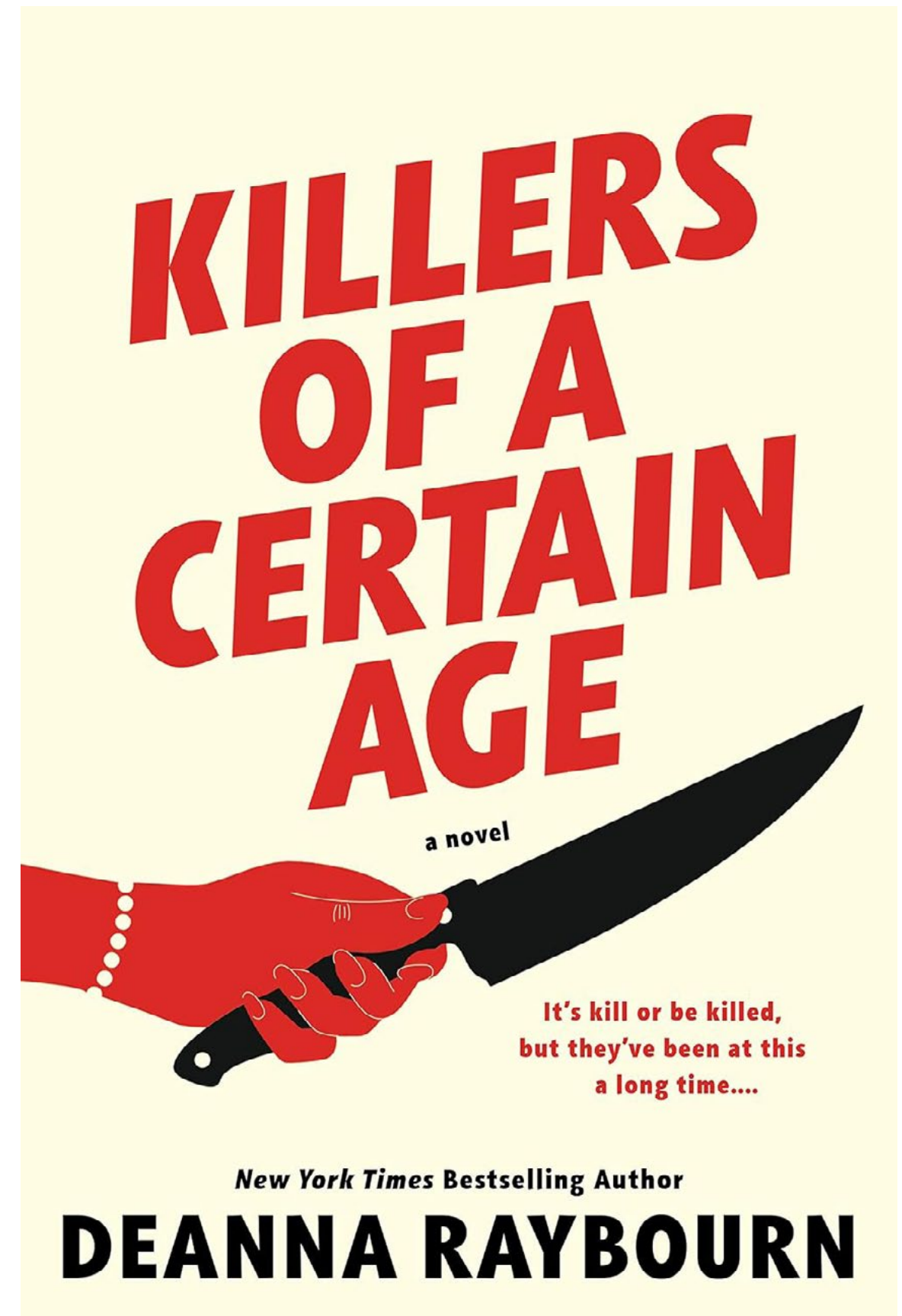


***Killers of a Certain Age* by Deanna Raybourn (Berkley Books, 2022)**

***Review by Amy Jenkins***

In the late 1970s, Billie, Mary Alice, Helen, and Natalie were sought out to be part of an elite female assassination team called the Sphinx. While they were schooled in mundane things like etiquette, they were also highly adept in hard skills such as poisons, weaponry, and downright dirty fighting. Their missions took them around the world. Now in their sixties, the ladies get together for some R&R. But unbeknownst to them, someone has put a hit on them. Why? The ladies prove that age is nothing but a number and they are just as deadly and formidable as before. I recommend this title to fans of the movie *Ocean's Eleven* and to readers who like celebrating the vitality of older women.

*Editor's Note: MLA has a new interest group—the Emerging Adults Interest Group (EAIG)! In celebration, RAIG collaborated with EAIG and the Crab in this issue to promote the following material specifically aimed at emerging adults. Meg Faller graciously spearheaded this effort with the review and the curated book list on the next page. EAIG will also be offering a brief book recommendation for emerging adults in their new column each quarter.*





## **Honey Girl** by Morgan Rogers (Park Row, 2021)

### **Review by Meg Faller**

Waking up after a wild night in Vegas celebrating the completion of her PhD in astronomy, Grace Porter is faced with a note on her pillow and vague memories of GETTING MARRIED! Her bride is gone, and the note left behind gives her very little information about her new wife: who she is or where she is. Putting the mystery of her marriage on the back burner, she heads home to face the pressure of finding a position in her field and the weight of her military father's expectations for her, which prove to be overwhelming. *Honey Girl* is the story of Grace's recovery from crisis.

Diving deep into answering the question of what makes a person a "success," *Honey Girl* tackles some heavy emotional issues. How will someone who is such a perfectionist handle the messiness of real life without a concrete goal in front of her? Her journey takes her from her home in Washington state, to New York City and upstate (on a hunt for a lake monster) and south to visit her estranged mother. Each step of the way, she builds new relationships, learns how to navigate old ones that have been causing her pain, and ultimately learns how to start the work of healing.

## RAIG's Suggested Reads for Emerging Adults:

*Black Buck* by Mateo Askaripour

*Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston (now a movie on Prime!)

*The Incendiaries* by R.O. Kwon

*Real Life* by Brandon Taylor

*It Goes Like This* by Miel Moreland

*Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid

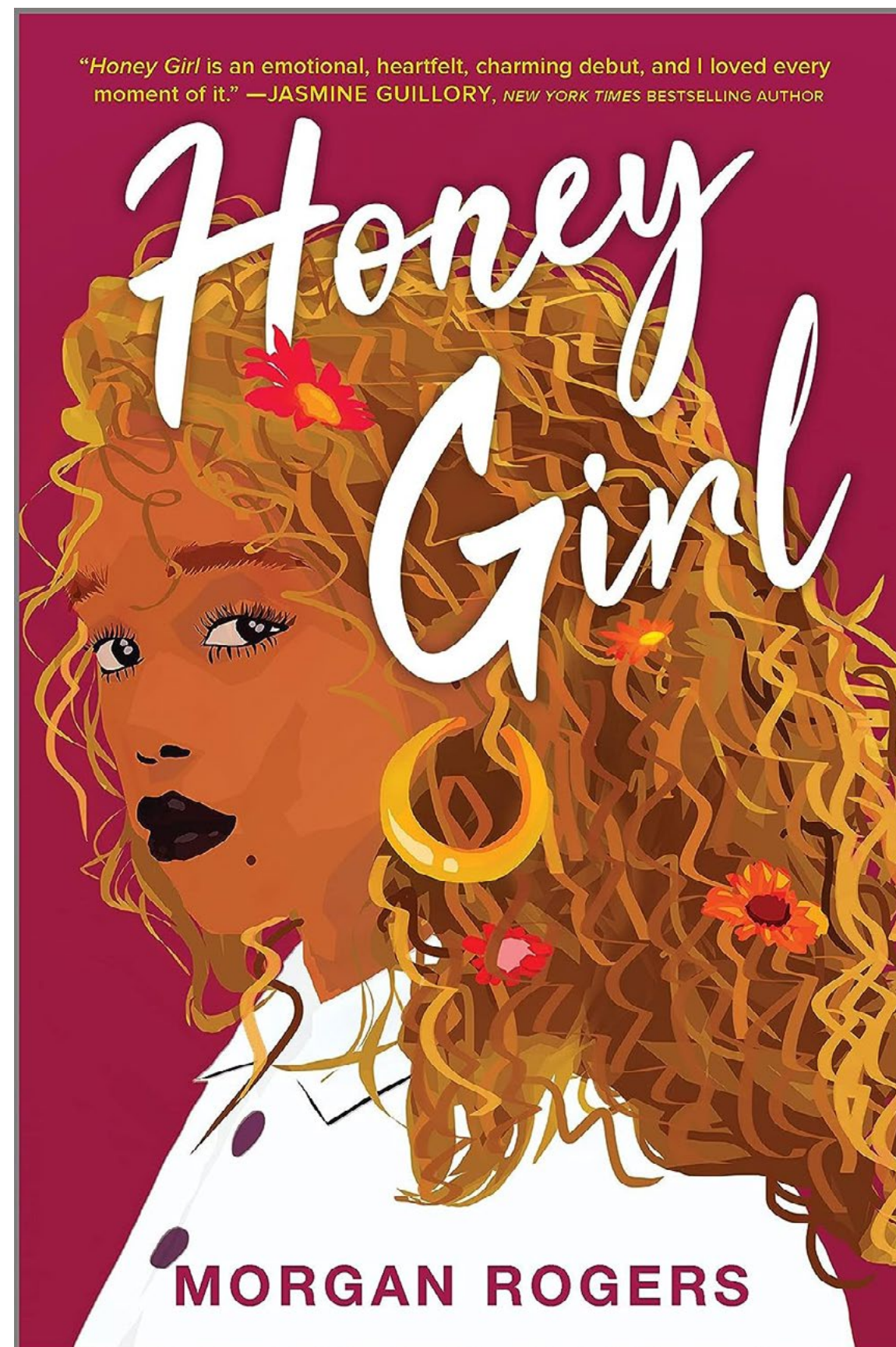
*Those Who Prey* by Jennifer Moffett

*Honey Girl* by Morgan Rogers ◆

*Love, Theoretically* by Ali Hazelwood

*Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros

*A Darker Shade of Magic* by V.E. Schwab







## Maryland Library Association's Future of Libraries Interest Group

# Embrace the Future! Join the FOLIG Conversation

*Tracy Miller, Harford County Public Library*

**T**he Future of Libraries Interest Group (FOLIG) meets monthly to talk about, not surprisingly, the future of libraries! We seek out interesting news stories about trends and changes across society and then we speculate about what those things might mean for libraries. Learn how and why we do this, discover how you can as well, and join the conversation with FOLIG.

Horizon scanning is the process of reading widely, looking for patterns and clues to what the future might be. Ideally, scanning should be done around a focal issue. In FOLIG, our focal issue is the future of libraries. To make sure that we are reading broadly, each month we organize our discussion around a different category. These categories are typically represented by the acronym STEEP, but we add an additional "E": (STEEPE!)

### Social

This is information related to society and human behavior. This might include information about demographics, lifestyles, or consumer behavior.

### Technology

This is an area that we naturally think about when we think about the future. What is happening with technology that will affect us in libraries?

### Economic

These are articles related to the economy. They are plentiful but often contradictory.

“Any useful statement about the future should at first seem ridiculous.”

### Environment

These are articles about natural resources and the ecosystem. We frequently find articles about climate change and how people are dealing with it.

### Political

The political landscape is an important topic for libraries, whether local or national. These articles may be about legal issues as well.

### Education

We make education its own category rather than group it with social. We talk about primary, secondary, and higher education.

Articles that are good scan hits can be provocative and make us think about the future differently. For example, I read an article in the *New York Times* about doctors who were experimenting with pain management by using virtual reality (<http://bit.ly/3PblqYp>). This topic doesn't have a direct connection to libraries, but it made me think about a future where people have a different understanding of pain and new ways to treat it. What would it be like to live in a society where pain isn't a factor in people's lives? How would that change be reflected in the library?

The Institute for the Future has a quote on their window by futurist Jim Dator: “Any useful statement about the future should at first seem ridiculous.” It is particularly interesting when we find an article that suggests radical ways that the future can be different. It helps us to break out of our educated incapacity—the tendency to become so used to policies and practices that we don't consider the possibility of a different way. So many of us know so much about what libraries are now that it can be difficult to speculate on what libraries could be. FOLIG is a place where we can engage in that speculation.

Don't worry about finding the “right” article to share; if you found it interesting, there is something there that will make for an interesting conversation at our meeting. We share our articles on MLA Connect in the FOLIG group. Log in and join the conversation! While you are there, you will find more information about scanning and places where you can find the future. I hope to see you there!





## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Panel

### Black Library Workers Affinity Group (BLWA)

*Shirley Mason, Baltimore County Public Library*

#### Who we are

In the spring of 2020, during a time of uncertainty and frustration due to the global pandemic and glaring incidents of social injustices occurring across the country, a group of Black staff at Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) met virtually to check in with each other and talk about what we were feeling and our experiences in the organization. After hearing praise for how the first meeting was so impactful, the meetings continued. Out of these meetings and conversations, the Black Library Workers Affinity (BLWA) group was born. The purpose of this group would be to provide a space for Black staff at BCPL to participate in conversation, build community, and increase inclusivity within the organization. The creation and organization of this affinity group was given the green light by our current CEO, Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, who, within her first few months at BCPL and after meetings with staff, recognized the need for creating space and community for Black staff within the organization. On March 22, 2022, the BLWA conducted its first meeting. The group has grown to 54 current members.

#### Our goals

- 🤝 Creating community and connection among Black staff within BCPL
- 🤝 Having a space to discuss shared experiences and support

- 🤝 Getting to meet new Black staff as they come into the organization
- 🤝 Creating collaboration with other branches, departments, and systemwide teams within BCPL for a more inclusive environment
- 🤝 Learning and growing through mentorship and professional development

#### BLWA accomplishments

- 🤝 Created a brochure for managers to share with new Black staff when they join the organization
- 🤝 Created an internal page to share the BLWA newsletter
- 🤝 Worked with DEI Officer on creating facilitation strategies for having courageous conversations
- 🤝 Worked with Collection Development department, creating a virtual book display on Afrofuturism
- 🤝 Held a presentation, “Microaggressions in the Workplace and How to Respond”

#### Future plans

- 🤝 Working with Staff Development Coordinator on creating a mentorship program
- 🤝 Continuing presentations of interest to Black staff

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday every other month in person and virtually. If you are interested in finding out more about BLWA, please contact Shirley Mason or Robbie Mason (members of the Steering Committee of BLWA), or BCPL’s DEI Officer, Cassie Miller. ■







ASSOCIATION of COLLEGE and RESEARCH LIBRARIES, MD

**T**HE MARYLAND CHAPTER of the Association of College and Research Libraries Division of the American Library Association (ACRL-MD) aims to represent broad-based areas of concern and long-term interest meeting the needs and concerns of library staff working in academic and research institutions in Maryland. ACRL-MD is one of 44 ACRL chapters across the country. Through their meetings, discussions, and programs, ACRL-MD provides opportunities for professional development and information exchange. These opportunities are in keeping with the national organization, which states: “The core purpose of ACRL is to lead academic and research librarians and librarians in advancing learning and transforming scholarship.”

The Association of College and Research Libraries, founded by ALA in 1940, represents more than 10,200 academic and research librarians and interested individuals. These members work in research, doctoral granting, technical, and comprehensive institutions, two- and four-year colleges, independent research libraries, and information-related organizations across the country. ACRL consistently undertakes initiatives related to information literacy and instructional development, supports professional development with research, resources, and training, and develops outcome-based standards for libraries in higher education. They also work to educate members about legislative and public policy issues that affect academic libraries and higher education.

If you are interested, get involved with ACRL-MD! On October 19, they are hosting in-person watch events for the ai4Libraries Virtual Conference, a platform designed to explore the potential benefits of AI in libraries; the Crab plans to share a summary of the day’s events in ACRL-MD’s column for our winter issue. ACRL-MD also has an [official blog](#); visit them for regular updates about monthly meetings and discussions, professional development opportunities, and plans for 2024 MLA/DLA Conference sessions.

Finally, meet the team! Find out more about the new ACRL-MD officers, the 2023 meeting schedule, and affiliate memberships with MLA on the following page, and in future quarterly columns in *the Crab*.



## >>> WHAT'S NEW WITH



acrlmd.wordpress.com

## 2023 Meeting Schedule

[tinyurl.com/ACRLMDwebex](https://tinyurl.com/ACRLMDwebex)

11AM-12PM

Aug 17  
Sept 21  
Oct 19  
Nov 16  
Dec 14

Graphic courtesy of  
Bria Sinnott,  
Albert S. Cook Library,  
Towson University.

## MEET THE TEAM



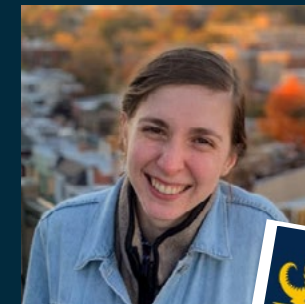
**BRIANNA HUGHES**  
>>> President

Brianna is a STEM Librarian at UMBC and is an alum of the University of South Carolina (Go Gamecocks!). An MLA member since 2020, Brianna's favorite part about ACRL MD is getting to connect with folks working in libraries across the state during monthly meetings. Fun Fact: Her first car was a 1961 Corvair convertible named Heidi that she restored with her dad.

Alex is the Continuing Resources Librarian at UMD College Park and joined MLA in 2021. A Catholic University grad, Alex most enjoyed ACRL MD's field trip to the Library of Congress and a post-conference happy hour. A reformed Russian studies major, he shares his favorite book with Daniel Radcliffe: *The Master and Margarita*

**ALEX DODD**

>>> VP/President Elect



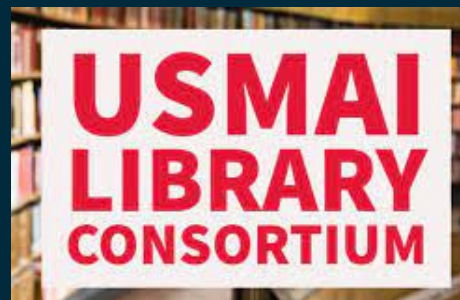
**KATE STRAIN**

>>> Secretary

A Drexel alum, Kate joined MLA in 2022 and works as the Technology Services Librarian at Loyola Notre Dame Library. She enjoys meeting new people and discussing hot topics at monthly meetings. One of her favorite books is Madeline Miller's *Circe*.

## >>> AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

Connecting with librarians across Maryland has never been easier!



The University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions ([USMAI](#)) and MLA recently announced USMAI's new MLA Affiliate Membership status. The Affiliate Membership means that every library worker at every USMAI institution automatically qualifies for membership in the MLA. This includes ACRL MD membership, discounts to professional development programs, discounts to the annual Maryland Library Association/Delaware Library Association Conference; access to MLA Connect, voting and office-holding eligibility in MLA; and leadership opportunities for staff at all levels. Leadership nominations across all MLA divisions open soon, consider taking advantage of your new membership by getting involved. If you need access now call 410.947.5090



# Banned Books Week

Laura Bandoch, Harford County  
Public Library

IF YOU HAVE BEEN in the library world for a while, then you are familiar with Banned Books Week. If you are new to the library world, Banned Books Week is an annual event that celebrates the freedom to read. Launched in 1982, this week highlights the value of free and open access to information. It began because of a sudden surge of challenges to books in schools, libraries, and bookstores. Sound familiar?

According to the Banned Books Week website (<https://bannedbooksweek.org/ala-releases-top-10-most-challenged-books-of-2022-list/>), the following were among their 13 most challenged books in 2022:

*Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe

Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit.

*All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson

Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit.

*The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

Reasons: depiction of sexual abuse, claimed to be sexually explicit, EDI content.

*Flamer* by Mike Curato

Reasons: LGBTQIA+ content, claimed to be sexually explicit.

*Looking for Alaska* by John Green

Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

Reasons: Claimed to be sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+ content, depiction of sexual abuse, drugs, profanity.

Unless you have shunned all forms of digital media, re-purchased a flip phone, and otherwise managed to avoid the cultural discourse on book banning, you are sure to be aware of how bleak the situation looks. In June, Texas passed the READER Act, which bans “sexually



## Intellectual Freedom Panel

explicit” books from schools. However, the law does not define what counts for “sexually explicit” and gives power to school boards to decide collections rather than librarians or educators who are in the

schools daily. In July, Mississippi passed a law that made it so no one under the age of 18 will have access to digital materials made available through schools or libraries without parental/guardian permission. This means that platforms such as Hoopla and OverDrive are off limits to them. In Washington state, the Columbia County Library is facing closure over disagreements on library collections. Their fate will be decided in November via ballot.

To top it all off, some school districts are turning to AI to try to figure out how to follow laws. Due to time constraints in many book banning laws, districts were left to their own devices to figure out how to comb through entire collections. One district in Iowa turned to ChatGPT. Titles were being thrown into the OpenAI tool by asking it, “Does BOOK NAME contain a description or depiction of a sex act?” If the answer was yes, books were removed. Since ChatGPT combs what is already on the internet, it no doubt is influenced by several book banning websites that are sure to use the exact language to ensure books are banned without professional scrutiny.

Before you begin to wallow in despair, there is hope. Last August, a Virginia state judge dismissed two cases that sought to bar the public display and sale of two books alleged to be obscene. In June, Illinois officially banned book bans. And, of course, there is us: library workers. Being vocal at local government meetings where these conversations take place can go a long way. Shoring up your library’s challenge policy is another way to fight book bans. If you are ever doubting whether it is something you should do, be sure to refer to the ALA Library Bill of Rights, which is the professional standard we hold ourselves to as library workers. If you feel passionate about the freedom to read, please join the Intellectual Freedom Panel at our bimonthly meetings which take place via Zoom. ■





# Materials Interest Group

## From Selection to Shelf: Baltimore County Public Library's Library of Things

*Joey Schenning, Cassie Domek, and Matthew Rolph, Baltimore County Public Library*

### Library of Things History & Selection

While the idea of a Library of Things collection seems like a new feature of libraries, BCPL has had items since at least the early '90s. In a partnership with the Baltimore County Police due to rising theft in the area, BCPL added engravers as a circulating item for residents to mark their lawnmowers and other hardware. The library began expanding this collection in earnest in 2016 with grant-funded Chromebooks to help close the digital divide. Since then, BCPL has added hotspots, telescopes, looms, science kits, outdoor activity kits, and more.

BCPL began with engravers, as well as "Baby Booster Kits" (children's backpacks with themed books, CDs, activities, and a book for a parent), book club kits, and fishing poles. As these all functioned differently from our traditional media, and the call for other non-traditional library media was growing, it was determined that a systemwide team needed to be created to focus the scope, guidelines, and processing for these collections. This team was charged with coming up with ideas for new collections, how to classify current and future collections, as well as coming up with streamlined processing for each material to

make it feel like a library item while still allowing for it to be transported, checked out, and not damaged during regular use.

Many factors were used to determine the collections we should focus on and what to acquire next, including:

- 🔧 What are the needs of the community?
- 🔧 What funding or grants can be used to purchase these items?
- 🔧 How difficult the materials are to maintain or fix.

Often, these collections started out at one or two locations to see how they would work in the hands of our customers and their reactions before expanding to the remainder of the branches through the floating collection. Telescopes began at Catonsville and proved popular, so they were expanded to a systemwide collection. But as our experience with these collections grew, we were able to take fewer risks and make more data-driven decisions. A camera kit was created for our Entrepreneur Academy and added to the collection at large to increase access. Board games were distributed to all branches at once due to their smaller size and general familiarity.

Certain material matches a particular library's focus or nearby amenities. After a renovation, Hereford focused on art creation, so they have circulating looms. North Point is near many bodies of water, so fishing poles can be found there. However, due to the fragility of the material, those particular items do not float from branch to branch. While we try to have consistent rules for each material type under the Library of Things umbrella, we understand that not every rule works for every collection.

Not every material ends up being a success, however: DVD Players were trialed at Essex and Randallstown and were very popular, but we found the devices to be flimsy and prone to issues, so they were removed through attrition. Playaway Locks (set collections of eBooks on a tablet) were not very popular and ended up being discontinued by the manufacturer, so we had no choice but to drop this collection. It is important to set guidelines for what will be considered a successful launch, so your system can determine if the material is "worth it" to continue in the future.

### Library of Things Cataloging

As more material was acquired for this collection, and after a lot of trial and error with each new thing, internal tools were developed to make the cataloging and processing steps go smoother for all involved. When an idea for a kit is accepted, an information sheet is filled out. This asks questions about circulation parameters, any new codes or call numbers needed in the ILS, and if there is a program or event related to the kit where a deadline needs to be met. When the Selectors begin to evaluate material and place



orders for a particular kit or thing, they begin a shareable spreadsheet. This spreadsheet includes information like the total cost and breakdown of components' cost if there are multiple parts, packaging information, websites and product information, what branches will receive the items, what codes need to be used in our ILS, and any other information that may be useful to know for the project.

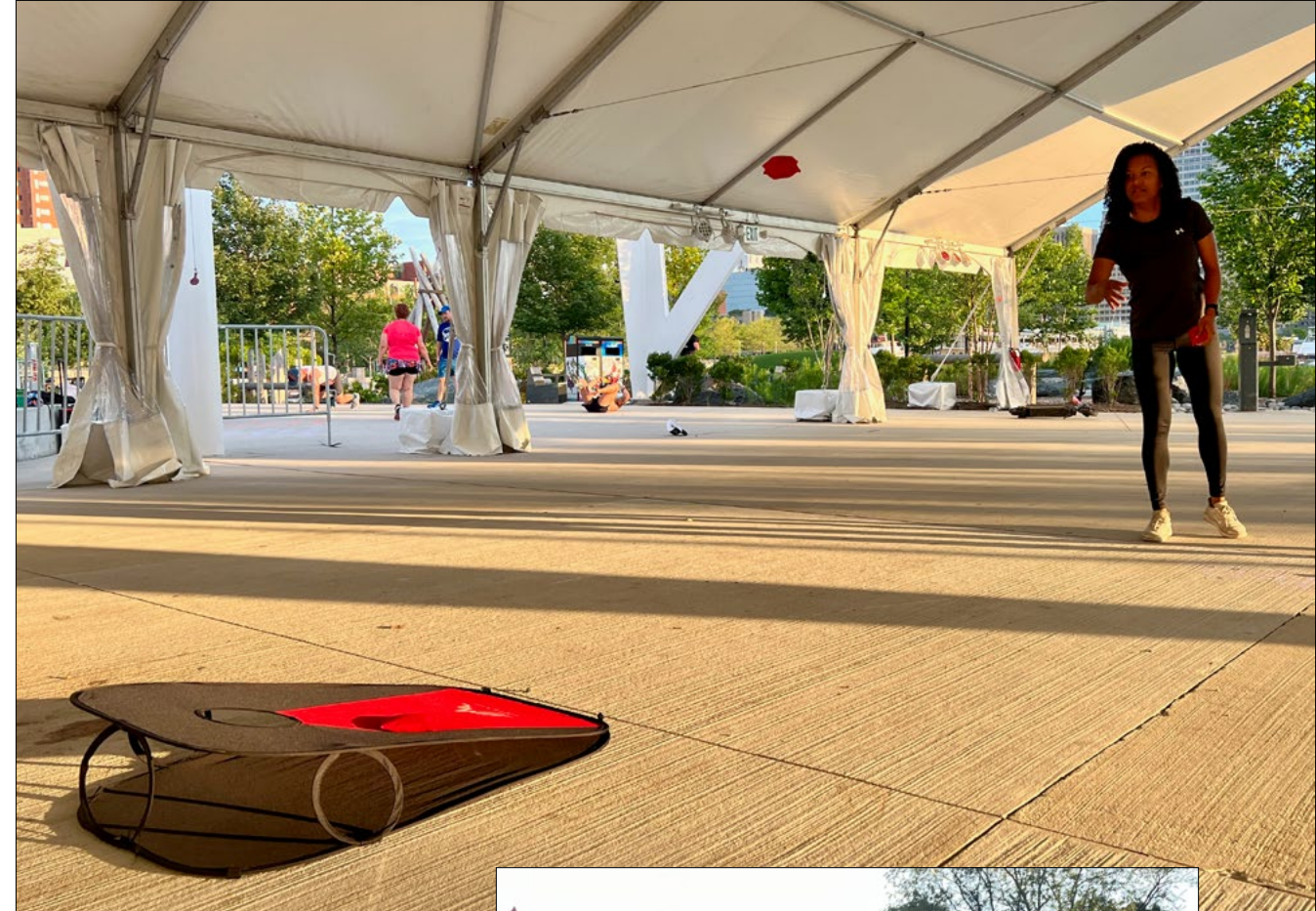
Once the Library of Things material is selected and received, the Catalogers look at all the components and decide how best to catalog the material. If it is a new kind of thing, the Head Cataloger usually creates the bibliographic record, setting a local standard for any future records for that type of thing. Once the first of this type of thing is cataloged, all the other Catalogers are cross-trained so that anyone can work on similar types of things.

Early on, the decision was made to code these items as kits in our bibliographic records, with the exception of electronic devices like Chromebooks and Routers that are coded as electronic resources. The bibliographic records describe all the pieces in the kit/thing in the 300 field, but depending on the item, branch staff use their judgement as to whether they count all the parts or eyeball the item to make sure all the key pieces are there and that it is still useable by the next customer. There is no expectation that staff will count all the pieces in a board game, for example. Model numbers are also included in 500 fields to make replacements easier to acquire, should they be needed. Any books in a kit are referenced in 700 fields to ensure that kit comes up in a regular title search. Special instructions are also included such as, "This item must be returned to a staff member at the information desk." Warnings and age-level restrictions are placed in the record as well. More recently, URLs to instructional videos, created by our Media Creation Services and hosted on BCPL's YouTube page, are included in the bibliographic record.

Another lesson learned over time is that the original packaging of each part in a BCPL-created Library of Things kit is really useful to the Catalogers when making the bibliographic record. The packaging can contain model numbers, age-level warnings, instructions and usage guidance, and other important information. Some of our items, like board games, often have records available in OCLC that can be edited, while others that BCPL created out of a variety of components require complete original cataloging.

## Library of Things Processing

Processing items for the Library of Things collection is a unique undertaking, as the collection encompasses a wide variety of items. Our guiding consideration in processing these items is "how will this item be used?" Considering this factor has led us to tailor our process to the item to maximize efficiency and lifespan. Take a disc-golf set for example: does it make sense to place a paper sticker on an item that might be regularly



*Baltimore County Public Library customers enjoying materials from BCPL's Library of Things collection.*





exposed to water? In cases like these, a low-tech solution such as a permanent marker is often the best choice if an item needs a barcode number or to indicate BCPL ownership. We will also consider whether adding labels/writing to an item will interfere with its intended function. Generally, processing Library of Things items requires thinking about how items will be used “in the wild,” to strike a balance between meeting the needs of the organization and maximizing utility for customers.

For items such as board games, the process is relatively straightforward and replicable between different items. A box, contents checklist for staff, a check-out tag, and a little lamination are usually all that is required for a typical board game. This is true for several other categories, with only minor labelling differences between them. Other items, such as fishing poles or a movie-night kit (inflatable screen + projector) require much more consideration due to the differences in shape of the item, intended usages, and cost of replacement. Most items will receive at minimum a tag with a call number, barcode, and RFID tag, plus some other indication that the item is BCPL property.

Items that are acquired through our department of Digital Equity & Virtual Services (DEVS) such as Wi-Fi hotspots, laptops, and routers are among the most involved items to prepare for circulation. Though the actual physical processing of these items is simple, they require significant collaboration with DEVS to keep serial numbers, phone numbers, passwords, and other important data organized so that the items may be tracked and maintained while in circulation.

An additional factor that affects Library of Things processing/repair/maintenance decisions is the cost to replace vs. repair an item: It does not make sense to put hours of staff time into repairing an item that originally cost \$10.00, but to spend 20 minutes on an item that initially cost \$400 is a completely different story. Whether or not the item can even be replaced is another consideration; if the item is irreplaceable, then repairing the item is often the best option available. We will also retain parts from withdrawn items in the collection as replacement parts to extend the lifespan of other items and reduce repair costs. Comparing the cost of repair to the cost of replacement ensures that we use our resources efficiently, so that the customers are provided with the highest quality service possible.

For more information about our Library of Things collection, visit our page at: <https://bcpl.info/books-and-more/library-of-things.html>

For more information about joining a meeting, visit [MLA Connect](#) and join the Materials Interest Group page for updates. ■





# Emerging Adults and the Library

*Stephanie Wiant, Frederick County Public Libraries*

Emerging adults (EAs)—individuals ranging in age from 18 to 29—have been traditionally overlooked as potential library users. However, librarians across the state are eagerly taking on the challenge to meet the needs of this unique customer base. Here are the thoughts of a librarian serving emerging adults and a current library customer.

## Emerging Adult Librarian Story:

**Dan Ramirez, Anne Arundel County Public Library**

### What were your dreams in high school?

This reflects both where I was at the time and what was happening in society in the era.

I remember writing an essay to apply to my high school that was essentially about the strong work ethic I admired in Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken Jr. One must remember that the 2131 streak was a huge deal at the time as it was the surpassing of Lou Gehrig's consecutive game streak which was around for decades. There is also the belief that this event did much to heal the sport of baseball after the 1994 strike the year before. Additionally, although this is unlikely to happen much in current times, it was very unique and in some ways special for one player to play their entire career with one team, their hometown team no less. So, I think the dream, at that stage, was simply that there could be a world in which consistent attendance and hard work over the long haul would pay off for anyone. A small select set of students got an award at high school graduation for perfect attendance, meaning zero



absences or late arrivals over all four years. While I was not a recipient of the award, I wonder if the streak did much to animate their drive for perfect attendance.

### Did you take a traditional path to college or start working?

I had summer jobs doing manual labor, but I took the traditional path to college right out of high school.

I went to Loyola University of Maryland. Over time, the Jesuit influence made a deep, lasting positive impression on me.

The goal of the vast majority of graduates at any university after graduation is to, of course, start down a professional career path, whether that be working for an organization to earn an income or going to graduate school to again prepare to earn an income. The Jesuit philosophy and spirituality encouraged me to question the standard pathway and look at other options. One evening on campus, a Jesuit, Dean Brackley, came from El Salvador to give a talk about his experiences. He called the audience to take a good look at individualism in our society, consider spending time with the poor, and even think about downward mobility in lieu of upward mobility. That stuck with me and that pushed me to volunteer with Jesuit-related organizations for two years, which was very enriching.

There was a lot of exposure to ideas that I did not recognize as cutting edge for the time. There was a talk that I listened to at a Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) meeting many years ago that I found meaningful and valuable for its directness. Only in the last few years has it struck me that what they were doing in that talk was a forerunner of what we now call DEI. If I can take a stab at putting this all together, I believe that the JVC wanted their volunteers to be aware of how the lack of diversity, equity and inclusion plays a role in why certain people are at the margins of our society. To empathize with the people they served, the volunteers had to see the big picture.

When I read a book by either a Jesuit author, someone who has been educated by the Jesuits, or even an obituary about someone impacted by Jesuits, although I have never met the individuals, I instinctively sense a connection. It is just that way.

### Did you go to the library during your EA years?

Well, there of course was the high school library and the university library, but the local public library (Howard County's Miller Branch pre-2011 new building) was where I would go from time to time when classes were not in session. The public library had



more of a neighborhood feel to it and you could find a lot of popular titles. If you had some assignment that had to be in after spring break, you could use the public library's study room during spring break as the university was largely closed. I thought it was great that a book could be shipped to the public library branch for me from somewhere else, so I didn't need to travel out of my way.

People take high speed internet as a given now, but during my EA years the library (at first the university and then the public library) was the place to get high speed internet, and for certain communities it still is. A lot of folks were still on dial-up at home, but the library was going into high-speed internet very quickly. Looking back on it, that was impressive, as a few years prior electronic capabilities were totally different.

**What is one program or service that the library offers now that you benefited from during your EA years?**

I distinctly remember going to the local public library to research cars when I needed to purchase one. I recall borrowing one of the Consumer Reports magazines which went into detail about what were the best economy as well as compact cars for the year. The walkthroughs on all the details of the cars as well as the ratings were really outstanding. I was glad the library had a copy as it helped me with my purchase preparation. You walk away knowing which make/model you want to start test driving.

**What is one library program or service you envision that could enhance the experience of EA's in the library?**

Things have changed immensely for the better since my EA years. It is hard to choose one program or service, but there are a variety of things that should be mentioned. First off, libraries do offer programs such as presentations on the 529 plan that helps parents plan to pay for their children's college tuition. There are also programs where the local community college plays a role at libraries by having an admissions officer available to provide information to new/returning students. Anne Arundel County Public Library is offering this online on Thursday November 9 at 5 PM, with the Anne Arundel Community College admissions officer presenting. So, I think the ability to have outside presenters and organizations who bring their expertise that has some bearing on EAs is a significant achievement for public libraries. I cannot recall that during my EA years.

Secondly, and perhaps if we reflect on this it is a more pivotal development, there seems to be more and more programming out there for teens. Take a look at the Anne Arundel County Public Library Fall 2023 Happenings magazine: page 9 lists book clubs for teens, and pages 22 and 23 have a whole host of programs from Career Speed Dating to Teen Writing Clubs.

Thirdly, and most groundbreaking, is that librarians are now "leaving the building" to

get to know their communities better. For teens, this may mean chatting with them to promote teen programming or to get their thoughts on library services just outside of a public library branch, if that branch is also a school bus stop location. Additionally, some are visiting high schools and speaking about public library services in the cafeteria during lunch periods.

This third point is likely to be the new frontier full of opportunity, risk taking, and constant change. The ability to directly ask what the dreams of an EA are and how the public library may help achieve those is probably a safe bet on where the future is headed.

### **Emerging Adult Spotlight:** **Jillian Powell, Washington County** **Free Library customer**

**When did you start using the library?**

I started using the library when I was five years old. There was a library in my hometown, Bowie, a little one, very cute. I loved it! I had problems learning how to read until I was 10; actually, certain words I couldn't read or understand, so I would find books I thought I would like and just try to read them. It helped me a lot, just reading on my own with a book in hand and some music playing. I am still using the library to this day, at 19 years old. I love my library and honestly became friends with most of the staff at the Washington County Free Library.

**What do you enjoy most about the library?**

I think what I enjoy most about the library is that it's almost like a second home to some people, a safe place when home is not a home at times. A place to meet lifelong friends and a place that teaches you lessons, sometimes in the books and sometimes through life events.

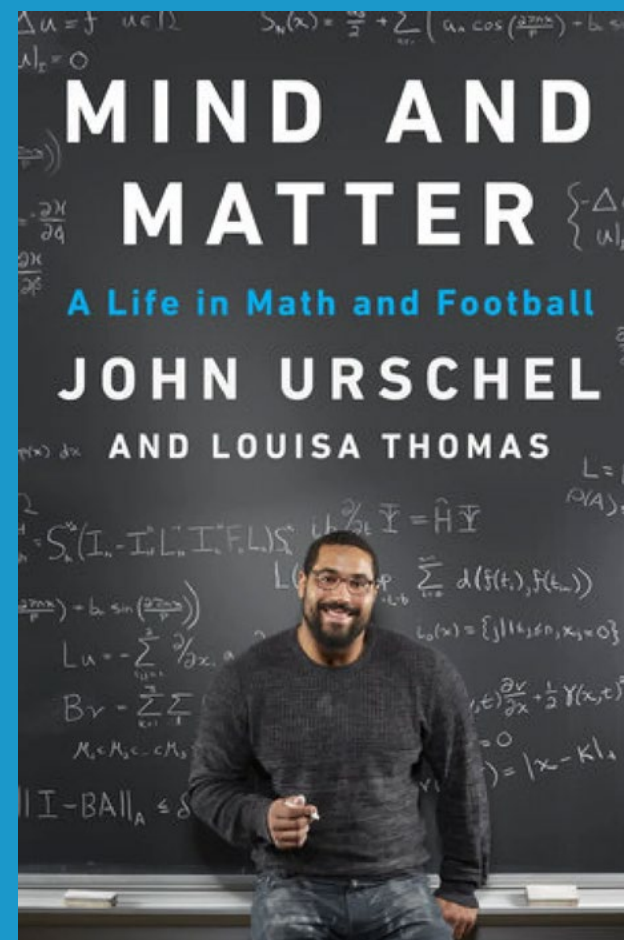
**What genre do you enjoy reading?**

You can't ask me this question — I can't pick one genre!! There are so many! I will bring it down to my favorite four: thriller, adventure, sometimes romance, and last but not least, genres about life. There's this book called *The Art of Being Normal* by Lisa Williamson. I think it helped a lot of people who might have been going through exactly what the book is based on.





# emerging adult *book of the month*



## ***Mind and Matter*** by John Urschel

Former Baltimore Ravens lineman John Urschel was auditing college-level calculus courses by age 13. But he also fell for the thrill of football. In this memoir, he shares how he learned to navigate his double life as a scholar and an athlete, holding on to both of his passions and finding success both on the field and in the classroom.



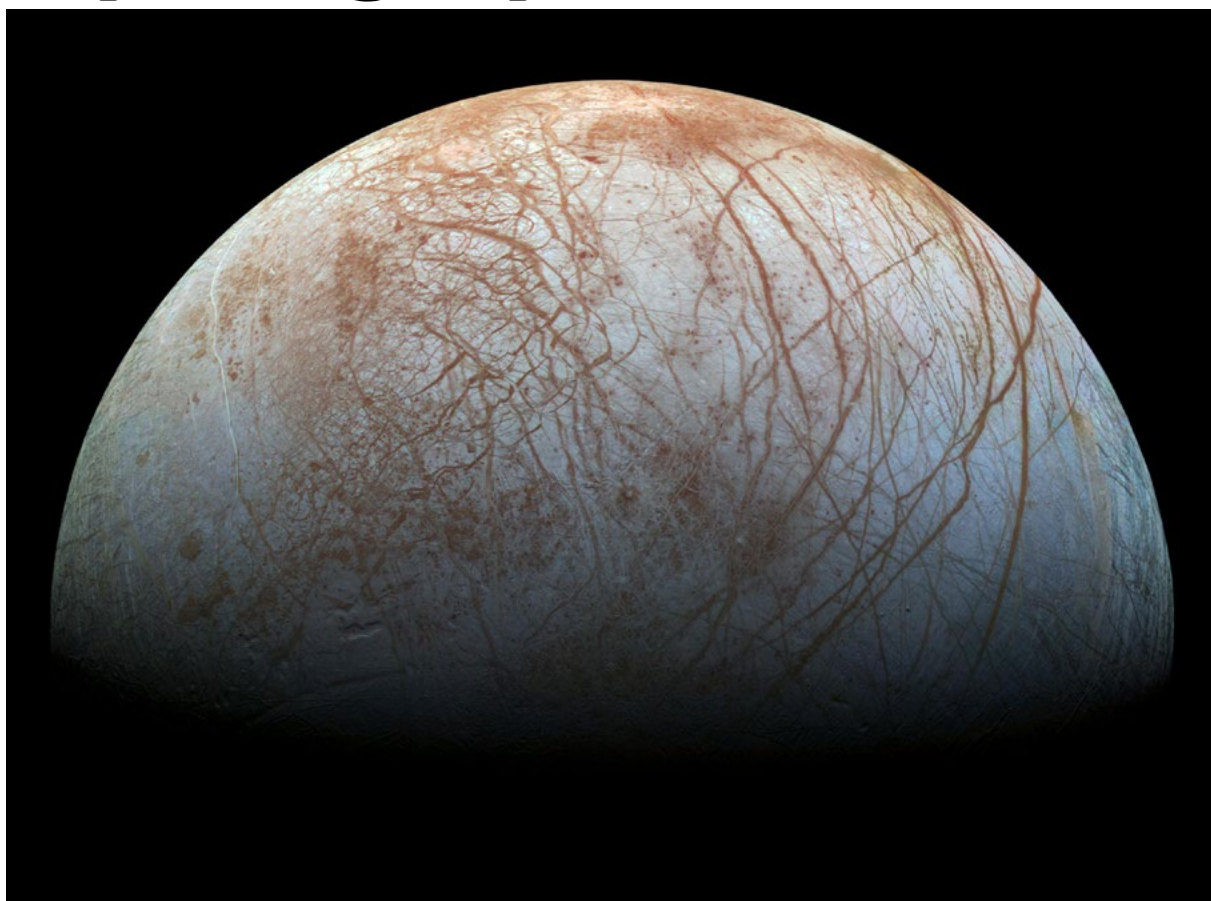
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## From Galileo to Clipper: Exploring Jupiter's Moons



By Vivian White

"...We, too, are made of wonders, of great  
and ordinary loves, of small invisible worlds,  
of a need to call out through the dark."

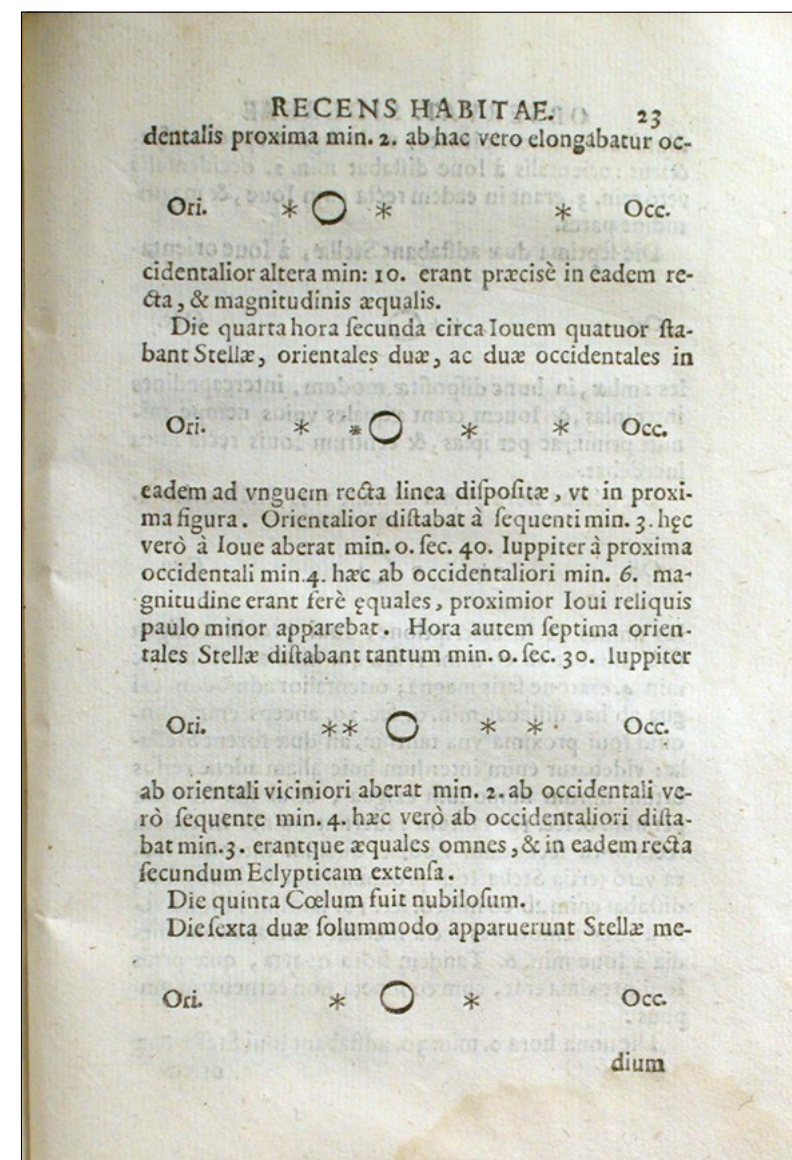
—From *In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa* by Ada Limón

As autumn begins, if you're up late, you may notice a bright point of light rising in the east. Look a bit closer, with a pair of binoculars, and you'll notice it's not a star at all. While stars look point-like no matter how big your backyard telescope, this light appears as a circle under closer examination. Even more curious, you will likely see a line of smaller dots on one

or both sides. Congratulations! You've rediscovered the king of the planets—majestic Jupiter—and its four largest moons.

Galileo famously chronicled the four moving dots near Jupiter and surmised that they were orbiting the distant world. While Jupiter has well over 80 discovered moons as of September 2023, these brightest four are called the "Galilean Moons:" Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. (Great mnemonics exist to remember these in order of distance from Jupiter, such as "I Eat Green Caterpillars.") You can follow these like Galileo did, using stargazing apps or the handy image on the next page. A favorite beginning observing challenge is to **track the movement of the Galilean Moons** over the course of many nights. Even within a few hours, you will notice them moving in relation to Jupiter, just as Galileo did.

Fast forward 414 years, and



Galileo's drawings of Jupiter and its Medicean Stars from *Sidereus Nuncius*. Image courtesy of the History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries.





NASA will be sending a robotic mission to investigate the surface of one of these distant worlds. The [Europa Clipper Mission](#) is launching to the cold, icy moon in 2024, to begin orbiting in 2030. With its salty oceans covered by ice, Europa was chosen as an excellent location to continue the search for life outside of Earth. Clipper will be the largest spacecraft ever sent to another planet, designed to withstand Jupiter's punishing radiation. Once it arrives at Jupiter in 2030, NASA plans to do about 50 flybys of Europa, mapping almost the entire surface of this watery world.

This was once only dreamed of in the small telescope of Galileo, or in great works of fiction, but now NASA is turning our wildest imagination into reality. One of the celebrated quotes from the classic *2010: Odyssey Two* warns, "All these worlds are yours, except Europa. Attempt no landing there." Science fiction fans can feel relieved knowing that author Arthur C. Clarke gave his blessing for the Europa Clipper mission.

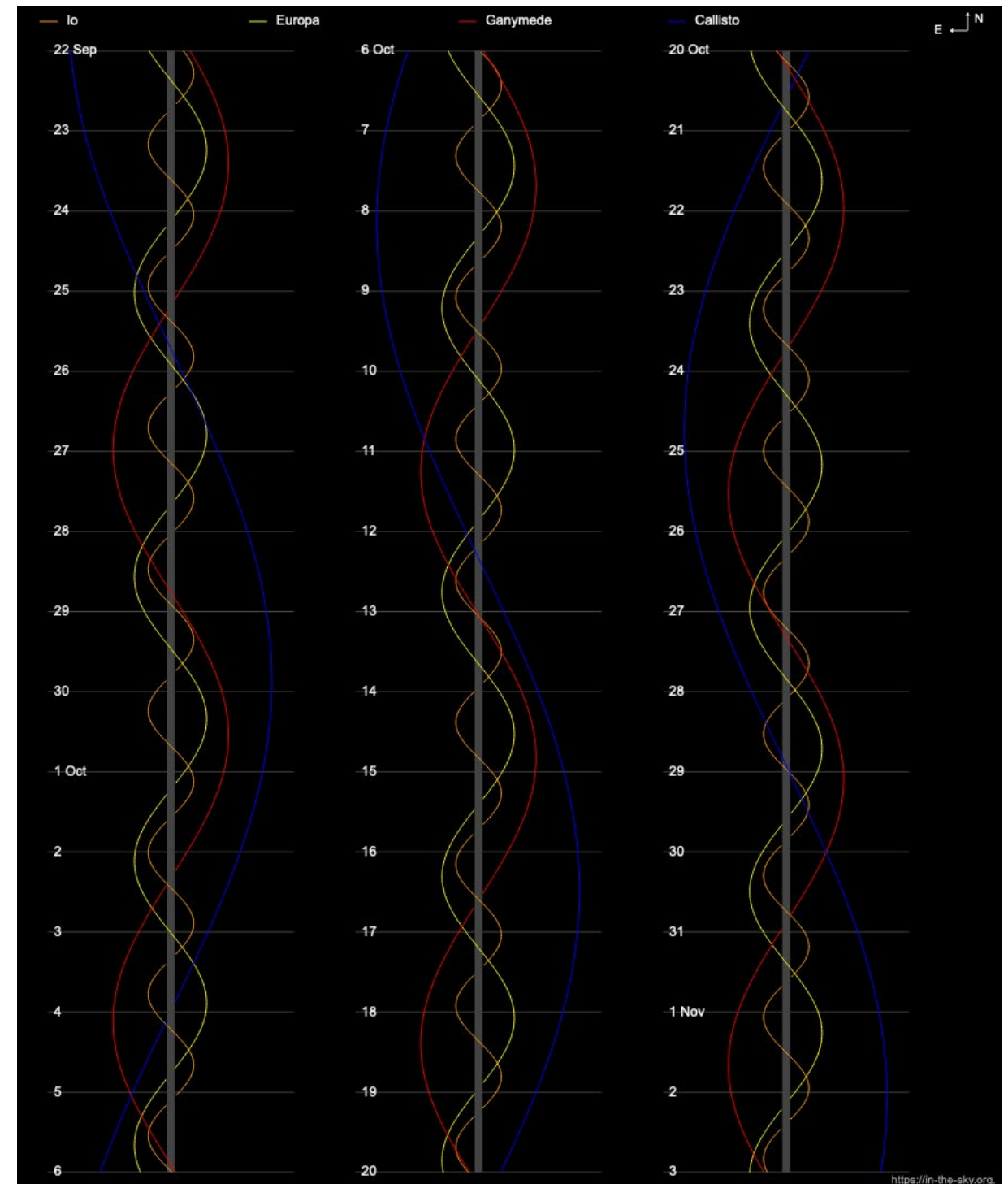
Join the Europa Message in a Bottle Campaign to send your name with the spacecraft, hear the rest of the poem by the US Poet Laureate, and learn more about the wonders of space travel with the Clipper Mission: <https://europa.nasa.gov/participate>

Watch a wonderful Clipper webinar with Dr. Cynthia Phillips, planetary geologist with the mission: <https://www.youtube.com/live/RnnLJBLRBCA?feature=shared&t=269>

This article is distributed by NASA's Night Sky Network (NSN). The NSN program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit [nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov](https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov) to find local clubs, events, and more!

*The position of the Galilean Moons of Jupiter in October 2023*

<https://in-the-sky.org/jupiter.php>







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# Laura Bandoch, Harford County Public Library

## About Laura's job and work with MLA

**What is your job title/employer? Professional history in libraries? Work responsibilities/special projects/initiatives?**

Materials Assistant Director at Harford County Public Library. I started in libraries with my internship during my final semester at the University of Maryland for my MLS as an intern for the summer at HCPL. Then I was a school librarian for three years at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore. In 2016, I took a dive into public libraries at Baltimore County Public Library as a part-time librarian. Then I was promoted to a full-time librarian position. In February 2022, I moved over to HCPL.

Right now, my work responsibilities involve helping oversee Materials and Technical Services at HCPL. That involves making sure the workflow moves smoothly - from invoicing, to processing, to cataloging. It involves making sure our special collections are maintained. It also involves a small bit of selection. As far as special projects... I feel like I'm always connected to special projects. But I'm particularly excited to get my current department onto Microsoft 365 and see how Power Automate and other digital tools can help us interface with the staff and the public, and ultimately make our workflow more efficient.

**What work have you done within MLA and what are your hopes and goals for your interest group in the upcoming year? What are you most excited about? How can the MLA community support you in achieving your goals?**

Over the pandemic, I was chair of the Blue Crab Committee from the Children's Services Division. As for now, I'm leading the Materials Interest Group. My hope is to continue the conversation around physical things in our libraries. We had our first conference session at the May 2023 MLA/DLA Conference (Selection, Cataloging, and Processing with a DEI Lens). We're planning our May 2024 conference session currently. I'm most excited about reminding libraries that the root of who we are - our physical collections - is as important as ever. The MLA community can support this work by keeping materials conversations going at their own

organizations as well as coming to visit us for a meeting! In the wider MLA community, I'm also Secretary this year for the Intellectual Freedom Panel.

**What is it about libraries that inspires or motivates you?**

Books! Cliché, but the truth. While I don't think that the physical book matters too much, the fact that books represent possibility to me is inspiring.

## About Laura

**Favorite movie, TV show, or play?**

Movie - *Lord of the Rings*, TV Show - *Stargate SG-1*, Play - *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

**Favorite sport and/or sports team?**

Baltimore Ravens/Baltimore Orioles.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was as a produce clerk at Klein's Supermarket on Main Street in Bel Air.

**Do you have pets? What kind?**

My husband, daughter, and I have two Miniature Schnauzers - Acadia and Blarney. We also have two goldfish - Goldie and Goldo. To round out our pets, we have four Buff Orpington chickens named Jelly Bean, Lemon, Peep, and Sour Patch.

**Favorite type of music?**

Right now, I'm going through this Americana/folk phase.

**Favorite smell or sound?**

Smell - I'm a sucker for sandalwood at this moment. Sound - Rain on a window.

**What book is currently on your nightstand?**

This is where I keep my literal TBR pile, so here we go:

- 📖 *Congratulations, The Best is Over!* by R. Eric Thomas
- 📖 *The State of Black America*, edited by W. B. Allen
- 📖 *The Water Will Come* by Jeff Goodell
- 📖 *The Heat Will Kill You First* by Jeff Goodell
- 📖 *Agents of Grace* by Daniel Darling
- 📖 *A Court of Frost and Starlight* by Sarah J. Maas





- 🐞 *The Girl from Everywhere* by Heidi Heilig
- 🐞 *Revelle* by Lissa Mia Smith
- 🐞 *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera
- 🐞 *The Lutheran Book of Prayer*

**Do you read more than one book at a time?**

Absolutely—if I don't have at least two books going at one time, I feel like I'm lost.

**What's your favorite place to travel, or a dream destination?**

I keep going back to Boston, so that must be it.

**Do you speak other languages?**

I can read in Spanish, but my speaking is only so-so.

**If you could be a superhero, who would you be and why?**

I'm going to choose Storm, only because then I can make the weather cool and misty wherever I go.

**What is a book you've read that changed how you think about a topic or about your life?**

If I could *only* pick one, it'd be the first one I remember blowing my mind. It was *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. It was the first time I had considered that those who are 'enemies' in war are people with complex lives. It made war much less a black/white affair and much grayer to my adolescent mind.

**What is something that you think would surprise someone about you or your job?**

In terms of my job, I think it's easy for branches or public-facing staff to see things as "that office just decided this or that" in their way of thinking. In reality, so much of my time is spent thinking about where stickers should be placed on things, what packaging makes the most sense, and how it will impact not only staff, but ultimately the customers. There are a lot of conversations about what collection makes the most sense for which book. Nothing gets decided without multiple people weighing in on things.

**What is your hidden talent or an unusual fact about you?**

I wear a bone-anchored hearing aid! My next one is going to be mint-colored, so be sure to ask me how it's going the next time we see each other. ■

## Stephanie Wiant, Frederick County Public Libraries

**About Stephanie's job and work with MLA**

**What is your job title/employer? Professional history in libraries? Work responsibilities/special projects/initiatives?**

I have been a Library Specialist Supervisor for Frederick County Public Libraries at the Myersville branch since January of 2023. My library career started exactly one year prior to that with the Washington County Free Library after my wife saw a job opening for a Young Adult Library Associate position. During that time, I was questioning my career— especially through the pandemic— and I knew I was being called to do something that would encompass all of my passions. My background is workforce development, case management, and coaching and mentoring young adults, so when my wife suggested that I apply for the YA position at the library, I was hesitant but intrigued, and I decided to go for it. Working in the library system has changed my life in the most remarkable way. I found my purpose, and my favorite role has been advocating for and developing programming for teens aging out of services and emerging adults between the ages of 18-25. My position at Myersville requires a broad range of duties and skills, and sometimes I feel like I am in library boot camp, but it has been transformative for me. I am gaining knowledge and experience and amazing new opportunities including becoming the chair of the new Emerging Adult Interest Group with MLA.

**What work have you done within MLA and what are your hopes and goals for your interest group in the upcoming year? What are you most excited about? How can the MLA community support you in achieving your goals?**





MLA approved the Emerging Adult Interest Group (EAIG) and my role as chair in July, and I am so excited about this groundbreaking, brand-new opportunity. My work with teens aging out of services and Emerging Adults literally started on my first day in the library system when a parent asked me if I was hired to create New Adult programming. That conversation changed my entire professional trajectory, and from that moment, birthing EAIG has been my focus. Receiving official support from MLA to bring my colleagues across the state together to create EA programming and advocacy is incredible. I am looking forward to empowering my colleagues and fellow EA Champions to collaborate through monthly meetings, workshops, conferences, and MLA Connect.

### **How are you involved in the wider community?**

I am involved with the wider community through DeVine Spirit Parlour which is the small business that my wife and I operate. I am an ordained interfaith minister through One Spirit Learning Alliance, and my biggest joy in life is to be of service to people. I am finding ways to use my heart of service within librarianship in ways I never dreamed of—by helping patrons find the right information to empower their lives, help with homework, or even build a birdhouse. Patrons are not just looking to access library resources—they are looking for information to help them on the path of self-discovery. I am grateful to be working in the library during this unique time in history as librarians are at the forefront in championing the right to read and intellectual freedom.

### **What is it about libraries that inspires or motivates you?**

Libraries saved my life. When I was diagnosed as a type 1 diabetic in February of 2020, right before the pandemic lockdown, I was feeling very hopeless. My local library was what kept me sane, because I was able to check out books and materials to help me begin my healing journey of acceptance with type 1 diabetes. When the library offered curbside pickup, it made me feel connected to the community again, and it gave me something to look forward to. I still remember the impact the library and the library workers had on my healing and hope for the future. What motivates me now about libraries is realizing they truly are beacons of hope for people. Libraries are the one place in our communities where *all* are welcome and encouraged to learn. Knowledge is power, and library workers empower citizens with the right to access, connection, and reading for all. I am honored to be a part of this profession.

## **About Stephanie**

### **Favorite movie?**

*Under the Tuscan Sun.*

### **Favorite sport and sports team?**

I am a huge sports fan! I love all sports, but I enjoy watching basketball, baseball, softball, and football the most. My favorite sports to play are basketball and softball. I secretly adore the O's and the Ravens, but my wife says I am a Pirates and Steelers fan.

### **Do you have pets?**

We are the proud parents of Novi, Puccini, Maestro, and Batina, who are our beautiful feline babies.

### **Do you read more than one book at a time?**

I do read more than one book at a time, but I try to keep the concurrent number at two—say maybe one fiction and one non-fiction book. My favorite reads are memoirs, inspirational reads, and a good light mystery.

### **Do you speak other languages?**

I am learning Spanish again. I took classes in high school and college. If you don't use it, you lose it, so I am trying to become conversant again.

### **What is a book you've read that changed how you think about a topic or about your life?**

I read *Desert Flower* by Waris Dirie in high school, and that was the first time I felt like I was immersed in another culture and captivated by someone else's personal journey. Her traumatic and deeply moving story awakened my entire being and gave me a greater sense of empathy and compassion for women who share her tragic experience.

### **What is something that you think would surprise someone about you or your job?**

Identifying as Native American with the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina has helped me engage with patrons on a personal level that I believe I would not experience otherwise. We are storytellers, so when a patron shares a glimpse into their life story, I feel even better prepared to help them accomplish their goals at the library or find just the right book.

### **What is your hidden talent or an unusual fact about you?**

I love to sing, dance, and celebrate life through music! And I can get competitive with karaoke, which is something that I enjoyed doing with my mom before she passed. I like to think that she's cheering me on anytime I grab that karaoke mike! ■



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## Crab Editors

**Julie Fitzpatrick**, Editor

Howard County Library System, 410-313-1950

**Regina Rose**, Copy Editor

**Amy L. Miller Meyers**, Copy Editor

Carroll County Public Library, 410-386-4490

**Robert Miller**, Copy Editor

University of Maryland University College Library

## Art Director and production staff

**Bucky Edgett**, Lucky Productions,

Westminster MD 21158; 410-346-6925; [luckypro.biz](http://luckypro.biz)

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