MLA Remembers Margaret Carty
Maryland’s library community celebrates the amazing life of Margaret Carty, who passed away on February 4, 2021. Margaret was an inspiration to all of us and may she rest in peace.

OutRAIGeous Reviews (Right)
Books Recommended by Members of the MLA Reader’s Advisory Interest Group (RAIG)

MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Panel (IFP) Celebrates Maya Angelou During National Poetry Month
Fame is too subjective for anyone to be declared the singular “most famous” anything— but on a list of famous American poets, Dr. Maya Angelou is sure to be near the top. Angelou, who died in 2014, would have turned 93 this month. Her work spans decades, and artists ranging from Nicki Minaj to Martina McBride to Amanda Gorman have credited her as an influence. MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Panel (IFP) considers Maya Angelou in this article because April is National Poetry Month and, it is also the month in which we learn the previous year’s Top 10 Frequently Challenged Books.

Book Review: Come and Be Shocked
What do outsiders imagine when they think of Baltimore? Mary Rizzo’s absorbing new book, Come and Be Shocked: Baltimore Beyond John Waters and the Wire (JHU Press, 2020), examines what she considers the two primary portrayals of the city. Rizzo, an Assistant Professor of History at Rutgers University, looks at several of the more well-known cultural productions that have depicted Baltimore over the last sixty years, finding contrasting themes that have emerged from a highly segregated city.

Night Sky Notes: Watch the Lion: Celestial Wonders in Leo
Leo is a prominent sight for stargazers in April. Its famous sickle, punctuated by the bright star Regulus, draws many a beginning stargazer’s eyes, inviting deeper looks into some of Leo’s celestial delights, including a great double star and a famous galactic trio.
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Leo, featured in this issue’s Night Sky Network article.

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

Somehow, I thought that this time would never come, the day where the Maryland library community lost its most ardent advocate and supporter, our dear MLA Executive Director, Margaret Carty. I had known Margaret for a number of years during my work as the Editor of the Crab and always enjoyed seeing and chatting with her at the MLA office and when she would visit Annapolis for Library Legislative Day. She always had a calming and welcoming presence, always making me feel like I belonged and was a part of something greater than myself.

In preparing this issue of the Crab, I thought it would be nice to take a walk down memory lane to see and learn more about Margaret and her service to MLA over the years (1999–2021), so we scoured for old photos and articles in the Crab archive. Hopefully, when you review the content of this issue, you will feel the same simultaneous sense of pride in and of great loss to the Maryland library community that I have felt since her passing in February.

In this same spirit, we have a “throwback” Margaret-themed President’s Message for this issue. Current MLA President Morgan Miller hopes to provide us with some further updates currently in development to honor the legacy of Margaret Carty in a follow up special issue of the Crab.

Annette Haldeman, MLA Crab Editor;
Department of Legislative Services Library
MLA has had 81 presidents dating back from 1924 up to 2005. 22% of those serving have been men. That’s just a bit of trivia and not what this article is about. As we all know, the MLA president serves the association for one year as president elect “shadowing” the current president, one year as the president and one year as past president serving as support to the current president. But, who is the one person who stays at the helm maintaining continuity and keeping the organization running? The answer of course is the Executive Director. For the past 6 years, MLA has been very fortunate to have Margaret Carty as its Executive Director.

Margaret came to MLA in January, 1999 as Acting Executive Director. A friend asked her if she might be interested in helping out while the Association searched for a new Executive Director. She saw a challenge and an opportunity and applied for the position. Margaret’s background is well suited for her position as Executive Director. Raised in a Navy family she has lived on both coasts and islands, including Cuba. She began her college education by earning an undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and after working in child welfare and a Superior Court in Maine, she decided to attend law school. While waiting to enter law school she joined the Navy and graduated from Officer Candidate School and Naval Justice School. She became Communications Officer at the Norfolk Naval Station and among her many other duties served on a Special Court Martial Board once a week. In 1964 she married a Navy Lieutenant who transferred to the Marine Corps. This meant tours on the east and west coasts and Puerto Rico. After being a stay at home mom for 16 years, she decided to attend computer school and eventually entered the University of Maryland where she earned a Masters Degree in General Administration. In between all this, Margaret and her husband added three sons and a family pet (a dog. Margaret is partial to Dalmatians).

Margaret spent 9 years at the Building Owners and Managers Institute (BOMI) as Coordinator of Examination Services, Director of Property Professionals and finally as Director of Accreditation and Research and Alumni Services. She left BOMI in 1998 and started her career with MLA in 1999. Margaret brings with her an impressive list of professional and volunteer activities: Annapolis Chorale, Board of Directors; American Council on Education, College Credit recommendation Service, Advisory Committee member, 1996-1999; St Margaret’s Day School, Annapolis, MD, Board of Trustees, 1996-1999, Vice Chairman 1996-1998; Military Order of the World Wars, 1996–present; Commander, Senior Commander and Junior Commander; Youth Leadership Conference, Director and Finance Officer, Board of Trustees; Scholarship Committee; Scouting Awards program; Patriotic Education Inc., Board of Trustees 1998–present, President, Vice president for Publications; Daughters of the American Colonists, National Society of New England Women; Citizens for Maryland Libraries, Board of Directors; Boy Scouts of America—Adult volunteer for 17 years.

She also spends time working with garden clubs, hospital auxiliaries, volunteering in school, teaching Sunday school and other children related activities.

An avid reader and people person, Margaret’s favorite authors are James Michener and Tony Hillerman. She is currently reading Lucia St Clair Robson books. Her hobbies include: her grandchildren, touring historic sites, and furnishing a 1900 saltbox doll house.

When I asked Margaret what her vision for MLA is, she had this to say: "My vision ‘wish list’ will require more funds as time passes. But I do believe that with growth the funds will grow exponentially.

"In the next 5 years I would love to see MLA develop further as a leader in growing the profession—we already are on the road and just need to keep accelerating on our trip. More scholarships for library staff pursuing degrees—undergraduate as well as graduate. Bring in the corporate world to help in this goal. More funds to help library..."
staff attend conferences and workshops from MLA to ALA. I would also like to see MLA partnering with library systems to make opportunities like this possible.

“I would like to see the membership increase in all levels of library staff and trustees. We need to bring more into the fold. We need to find out how we can serve the trustees and staff and what we can do to get them to become actively involved.

“I would like to see us continue the strong legislative program we have in place and build on this to develop a cadre of younger people with the skills and level of comfort to advocate in the future on the local, state and federal levels.

“We have a very strong educational program and conference— I would like to see us partner with other neighboring states and organizations to increase the offerings and make obtaining contact hours as accessible as possible for library staff. This would include geographic locations that can be obtained through electronic transmission as well as onsite.

“T will like to see a proactive public relations effort to keep our name in the public eye. We have a start on this and need to continue to attend events and find a procedure, resources and person to write and get articles printed in the local papers. It takes a constant effort to keep our name in front of the people.

“I would also like to see the office staff grow adding some very specific skills. In order to free the Executive Director to pursue external affairs for the benefit of the Association, an Assistant Administrator is necessary. A staff member with public relations expertise and graphic design skills would be a very positive addition in achieving our goals.

“We have a strong, supportive relationship with DLDS and MAPLA—this must continue to grow, and the same relationship can be fostered with other associations, organizations, associations and schools.”

Those of us who know Margaret know her as a competent and creative administrator who is using her administrative skills to work with MLA officers, committee members and the Maryland library community to help to maintain and enhance a credible, professional and vital association.

—Raineyl Coiro, Eastern Shore Regional Library

“This edition of the MLA Crab is dedicated to the memory and legacy of Margaret Carty, our Executive Director for 22 years, who we sadly lost on February 4th, 2021.

“Her extraordinary commitment, intelligence, leadership and ability to inspire us all shines through the pages of this special edition. This is the first of many ways we hope to honor her contributions to the Maryland Library Community going forward.”

—Morgan Miller, MLA President
Report from the Nominations and Elections Committee on the 2021 Maryland Library Association Elections

Joseph Thompson, Carroll County Public Library; MLA Past President; MLA Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

The members of MLA’s 2020-2021 Nominations and Elections Committee (Moushumi Chakraborty, Teonja Jung, Simmona Simmons, Ashley Teagle, Kenneth Wayne Thompson, and Joseph Thompson) are pleased to be able to announce the outcome of the 2021 election.

Please join us in congratulating these new officers and expressing gratitude to everyone who ran in the election. These individuals will be recognized at MLA’s Annual Business Meeting, 8:00–9:00 a.m. on Friday May 7, 2021 during the upcoming MLA & DLA Joint Library Virtual Conference.

Their terms will officially begin on July 1, 2021.

MLA Vice President/President-Elect
Naomi Keppler

MLA Treasurer
Carl Olson

ACRL-MD Vice President/President-Elect
Bria Sinnott

ACRL-MD Secretary
Brianna Hughes

CSD Vice President/President-Elect
Summer Rosswog

CSD Secretary
Katelyn McLimans

LDD Vice President/President-Elect
Suzanne Terry

LDD Secretary
Rhiannon George

PSD Vice President/President-Elect
Jennifer Jones

PSD Secretary
Melissa Lauber

SSD Vice President/President-Elect
Chelsea Shockley

SSD Secretary
Gabriel Jones
Remembering Margaret

Joe Thompson, Carroll County Public Library; Past President of MLA

Margaret was a mentor and friend for close to 20 years. Something that she consistently role-modeled for many of us was the power of showing up. She was there at almost any statewide event or meeting where there might be an opportunity to advance Maryland libraries and MLA. Being in the room has power, and she completely understood this. I’m very glad to have had the chance to spend many hours with Margaret, not only in MLA meetings, but out-and-about at events where we had the chance to witness firsthand the power that local libraries are having on regular people. One my favorite events is the annual “Maryland Day” campus-wide community festival at the University of Maryland College Park. Margaret would always put in a few hours at the libraries tent, talking with people and encouraging them to get involved in their local library Friends or even consider a career in libraries. This photo was taken of us at Maryland Day 2017 with our friend Sneaks (as performed by Amy Miller-Meyers).

Many of Margaret’s colleagues, friends, and family shared memories of Margaret during the February 12, 2021 episode of MLA Conversations. You can view the recording at https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/rec/play/jwmgWdZZvmucGl4wFwJHd9vcTOKamihR11TFhr0U6woRk7LNxrqQML2CpR3Trp591rFtH-5dFSCSJ5.H1Hj8LpsfC0zXxV?continueMode=true&_x_zm_rtaid=KG9SOlrFSZS4IQoASlaRA.1618272045850.b06b37a6b3694f3cac3784eb392611f4&_x_zm_rhtaid=678
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.

From far right: MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty joins Judy Castleman, Prima Plauche, Marion Francis, John Taube, Jan Carder Jay Bansbach, Hancock County Library officials and friends for the new bookmobile’s ribbon cutting.

MLA Delivers Holiday Cheer to Gulf Coast Library (Spring, 2006)

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
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.
Governor Ehrlich Greets MLA

By Kathleen S. Reif, Director, St. Mary’s County Library Chair, MLA Membership Committee

Governor Robert Ehrlich welcomed an MLA delegation on October 5th to the Governor’s Reception Room in Maryland’s State House. The meeting was arranged by MLA President Raineyl Coiro to celebrate National Library Card Sign-up Month and the Public Library Association (PLA) “Smartest Card @ your library” campaign.

MLA is taking a leadership role in bringing to our state the PLA advocacy campaign: “The Smartest Card. Get it. Use it. @ your library.” MLA officers attended the invitation only PLA preconference in June and they will attend the followup meeting in January.

The campaign kicked off in September during National Library Card Sign-up Month. The Marketing research indicated that the library card is a very powerful and meaningful image. It found that the library card is a universal symbol of our freedom to read, learn, and grow throughout our lives. It was decided, therefore, that the library card would be an effective foundation upon which to build an advocacy and awareness campaign. The goal of the campaign is very simple: to make the library card the most valued and used card in every wallet. The key messages will be that public libraries are: Partners for vibrant and educated communities; Essential for a free people and Places of opportunity.

A unique feature of this campaign is that during the first year the target of the campaign will be YOU: Library Staff, Trustees, Friends and Volunteers. “Library family” are the best advocates for libraries but we must have appropriate training, resources, and information. Check out www.pla.org/smartestcard.htm for the many materials which are already available and the training opportunities being planned for the PLA Symposiums in Chicago in March.

Future target audiences will include influencers (funders, policymakers, business and community leaders), families, seniors, and new Americans. Look for ongoing coverage of this campaign in The Crab, at MLA sponsored programs, and at www.pla.org.

Our MLA delegation apparently made an impact on the Governor and this staff, we were invited back to meet with Craig Williams, the Governor’s Chief of Staff, to discuss issues related to public and school libraries. Watch for news of this meeting in the next issue of the Crab.

The MLA delegation comprised (from left) Irene Padilla, State Librarian; Raineyl Coiro, MLA President; Mary Baykan, MLA Legislative Panel Chair; Kathleen Reif, St. Mary’s County Library Director; Margaret Carty, MLA Executive Director
Margaret Carty, Raineyl Coiro, Kathleen Reif and Irene Padilla with Miss Maryland at the State House in Annapolis holding the “Smarest Card.” Yes, Miss Maryland really is that tall!
Maryland Libraries Celebrate 5 Years of AskUsNow!

On March 19th, at the West County Branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library, library staff, board members and government officials celebrated the fifth anniversary of AskUsNow!, the free online service that provides answers to questions, research guidance and help navigating the Internet 24/7. With over 230,000 questions answered, AskUsNow!, provides trusted information through the resources of trained librarians, who were thanked for their services with an AskUsNow! mug, donated by the Maryland Library Association. AskUsNow! is accessed through the website www.askusnow.info, or by selecting the yellow AskUsNow! icon on partner library websites.

AskUsNow! brings together the experience of many of the state’s libraries, offering a service that none of the participating libraries could offer alone. As part of a national network, the librarians share night and weekend coverage with libraries from around the country. In addition to the live chat service, questions requiring more in-depth research such as business research, the law, hard to find statistics or historical questions are responded to by email.

AskUsNow! has been recognized by the Department of Education as an outstanding online reference service. Joe Thompson, the coordinator of AskUsNow! since its inception, was asked to speak at a virtual reference conference organized by the Department of Education, which included participants from Malta and Poland. Maryland was one of the first states to implement an online answer service. Continual feedback and monitoring of the program assure quality.

“I am thrilled that this online service is being used at such a high rate by Maryland’s middle and high school students working on their homework,” said State Superintendent of Schools, Nancy S. Grasmick. “It is impressive that we can click on computers from home to access librarians for help with research or find answers to thousands of questions.”

This project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds and through the Maryland State Department of Education’s Division of Library Development and Services. The services are provided by partner libraries.

“I am proud of the services that AskUsNow! provides the residents of Maryland,” said Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries. “In this computer age, AskUsNow offers students and business people a way to access information even when the library is closed.”
Glennor Shirley, then-MLA President (2010-2011), “passes the gavel” to then-incoming MLA President Lucy Holman 2011-2012, as Margaret looks on.
Margaret (center) poses for a photo with fellow MLA members at the 2012 ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, California
Margaret (left) proudly displays the MLA’s certification as receiving the Maryland Nonprofits of Excellence, joined by then-MLA president Lucy Holman (right) in 2012.
Mary Hastler (left) and Margaret proudly display their Daily Record Top 100 Women in Maryland Awards in 2013.
Margaret in the MLA Office, proudly standing near the new office Smartboard.
Margaret (left) looks on with Carrie Plymire, 2013-2014 MLA President, as incoming MLA President (2014-2015) John Venditta speaks at the MLA Conference in 2014.
Margaret and others from MLA pose with the ALA Declaration for the Right to Libraries.
Margaret (center), with 2016 DLA Conference Director Cathay Keough (left) and 2016 MLA Conference Director, Andrea Berstler, in a planning session at the MLA Offices.
Margaret poses with Sneaks and a young attendee at Maryland Day at the University of Maryland in May 2016.
Margaret and others chat with Maryland Senator Ben Cardin at the 2017 Maryland Association of Counties Conference.
Margaret imparts her annual words of wisdom to attendees of the MLA Leadership Day in 2018.
Margaret and the
Black Caucus of
ALA 2019 President,
Richard E. Ashby, Jr.,
at the MLA/DLA 2019
Conference
Margaret, with Glennor Shirley at the MLA/DLA 2019 Conference.
Margaret (center) poses with 2018-2019 MLA President Joe Thompson (left) and 2019-2020 MLA President Andrea Berstler (right) at the MLA booth at the 2019 MLA/DLA Conference.
EPISODE 38 OF MLA CONVERSATIONS, which was aired on February 12, 2021, had colleagues, friends, and family coming together to share memories of Margaret Carty, Executive Director of the Maryland Library Association, following her passing on February 4, 2021, after a brief illness.

To view the full recording, visit:
https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/rec/share/dOvD54yDEpfNd3DiukF2gHFr-QYMifT8vX-AxV-RL-_A5ie-m8rd_FPEBsXnldY-_3_0EjLguRt5r5X

Here are some selected quotes from attendees of the program:

**Bucky Edgett**

“Margaret hired me to produce the Crab back when it was a four page black ink on white paper mailed in number 10 outside envelope production. And, in the meantime it has become the digital news magazine, you know, and one of the most worthwhile, satisfying, projects I have ever done and continue to do. So I’m eternally grateful to Margaret for the opportunity to art direct and produce the Crab. It’s a lot of fun and it’s a good news magazine.”

**Jim Fish**

“You don’t say no to Margaret you know it’s really hard to do that, at the same time she made it so easy to say yes, you know and to be supportive.”

**Mary Baykan**

“I think one of the greatest gifts that Margaret gave us is that she gave us each other and that is the reason Margaret will never be gone.”

“She proceeded to grow this association honestly and to one of the most respected state champ state chapters on the national level.”

**Al Martin**

“She was such a pleasure to know and just such a professional the way that she was aristocratic but personable. She was someone that we all wanted to emulate. She has touched us in so many ways that and that will continue to live on so.”

**Bill Carty**

“You all were a large part of mom’s life and really brought a lot of joy to it and also throughout the community. There a lot of opportunity also for her to really flourish, so thank you.

**Irene Padilla**

“Margaret, as I said, always rose to the occasion and she did everything she could to make MLA a better organization.”

**Glennor Shirley**

“I loved her ethics her professionalism her nondiscriminatory manner, as long as you follow the protocols, it was always okay, because that was what was important to Margaret.”

“What I loved about Margaret was her discipline in the work atmosphere.”

**Kay Lynn Wheeler**

“Margaret loved giving us updates and it was always wonderful to share that with her.”

**John Carty**

“She came to MLA in 1999 and she spent 21 years there. She really flourished she was she was happy. She gained friends and she came away with great experiences.”
Remembering Margaret

https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/annapolis-md/margaret-carty-10042792

“In lieu of flowers, family and friends are asked to make donations in Memory of Margaret to the Cary Library in Houlton, ME. The Cary Library has long been a favorite charity for Margaret and the Creighton family.”

“Her family has established a Trust fund in her memory. It is the Margaret Creighton Carty Trust Fund and the interest earned from the invested funds will always be used for the Cary Children’s Library per their request. Donations can be sent to Cary Library 107 Main Street Houlton, ME 04730 or by email to faucheri@cary.lib.me.us.”

https://www.cary.lib.me.us/donations
OutRAIGeous Reviews

Books Recommended by Members of the MLA Reader’s Advisory Interest Group (RAIG)

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig (Viking, 2020), Review by Bina Pittman

In this magical story, a suicidal woman discovers a path to life again. Have you ever wondered “what if?” regarding the decisions and choices you made in your past? Do you feel as if your life contains a spectrum of possibilities that you innately harbor, that your life could or should be different, “if only...”? The Midnight Library majestically analyzes how life is an amazing gift of randomness, and how luck, talent, and hope for possibilities may be within your reach via personal perception.

Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers by Deborah Heiligman (Henry Holt & Company, 2017), Review by Krista Regester

We are so lucky that we can witness the love that the Van Gogh brothers had for each other through the hundreds of beautiful letters shared between them. Although Vincent was constantly enduring his chaotic mental health, was in and out of mental institutions, and had very little to live on, he just kept painting. Theo was his livelihood, his rock, and his best friend. Not only did Theo support him financially—but he also reassured him (not too often) that his work would be recognized some day for the genius it was. Although neither of the brothers were able to witness just how prestigious their art became, they seemed to know between them what the future held.

Black Sun by Rebecca Roanhorse (Saga Press, 2020), Review by Bettina Wesloh

The Night of the Knives is part of the dark sordid past of the city of Tova. On this night, the Knives of the Priesthood attacked the Carrion Crow Clan, slaughtering innocents as they slept in their beds. On that same night, a plot began to summon the Crow God to Earth and take his vengeance upon the enemies of his clan and end the tyranny of the Sun God once and for all. It was said that this would occur during the Convergence when the Earth and Sky join together under a black Sun during the winter solstice.

As the long-awaited Convergence approaches, the Sun Priest begins her preparations. It is her hope that she will be able to make the priesthood more approachable to the clans to help stem any dissent. Her plan is controversial within the priesthood, and forces are aligning against her to prevent her from realizing her dreams.

Meanwhile, a mysterious boat sets out across the Crescent Sea. Racing against time, this boat has cargo to deliver to Tova. Tiala, captain of the boat, takes a wild risk and sets out across the open sea with her boat powered by oarsmen and nothing but her Teek ability to calm the seas with her song. The cargo is a human, Serapio. He was blinded at the age of 12 and has the uncanny ability to commune with the crows and sense what is going on around him to the point that he is not believed to be blind.

With destinies set to collide, this riveting tale told through three voices will keep you enthralled until the very last page. Inspired by the Pre-Columbian cultures of the Americas, this is the first in the “Between the Earth and Sky” trilogy.

#OwnVoices
AME IS TOO SUBJECTIVE for anyone to be declared the singular “most famous” anything - but on a list of famous American poets, Dr. Maya Angelou is sure to be near the top. Angelou, who died in 2014, would have turned 93 this month. Her work spans decades, and artists ranging from Nicki Minaj to Martina McBride to Amanda Gorman have credited her as an influence.

MLA’s Intellectual Freedom Panel (IFP) considers Maya Angelou in this article because April is National Poetry Month and, it is also the month in which we learn the previous year’s Top 10 Frequently Challenged Books (http://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10). Angelou has occupied the intersecting category of banned and challenged poets frequently, though not for her poetry collections. Her 1969 autobiography I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings was the third most-frequently challenged title in the United States from 1990-1999, the sixth from 2000-2009, and the 88th from 2000-2019, according to the American Library Association’s Office of Intellectual Freedom (OIF). It has not appeared on an annual Top 10 list since 2007.

OIF tracks challenges nationwide, but here in Maryland, there have been instances that have contributed to Angelou’s place on the frequently challenged list. In 1998, parents in Anne Arundel County challenged the book’s inclusion in the 9th-grade English curriculum, and the title was briefly removed, though later returned to the curriculum. Interestingly, the book was also included in the 11th-grade curriculum but was only challenged as a book for freshmen. In 2000, a Poolesville parent raised concerns about the title as well. The concerns were raised concurrently with a challenge to Toni Morrison’s Sula; however, a Montgomery County Board of Education policy prohibited the same title from being challenged within a three-year period. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings had already been challenged in Montgomery County in 1998, the same year in which it was facing the Anne Arundel County challenges.

Of course, Maya Angelou’s legacy far outstrips any attempt to restrict access to her work. Her published works include poetry collections, autobiographies, cookbooks, essays, and children’s books. She was the first woman and the first African-American to deliver a poem at a presidential inauguration, and only the second poet ever to do so. Angelou was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award, won three Grammys, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This list barely scratches the surface of the honors that she has received.

When we contrast a five-decade legacy of art, activism, and inspiration with an attempt at removing materials, we see the short-sightedness of censorship. When materials are removed or restricted, the entire community loses out because the community writ large has a little less access to the information contained within. If you face a material challenge within your library or institution, please report it to ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom (http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report) and contact the Intellectual Freedom Panel if you would like support. Whether you are facing a challenge or not, IFP encourages you to read the works of Maya Angelou and other banned or challenged poets this April!
Book Review: *Come and Be Shocked*

What do outsiders imagine when they think of Baltimore?
MARY RIZZO’S ABSORBING NEW BOOK, *Come and Be Shocked: Baltimore Beyond John Waters and the Wire* (JHU Press, 2020), examines what she considers the two primary portrayals of the city. Rizzo, an Assistant Professor of History at Rutgers University, looks at several of the more well-known cultural productions that have depicted Baltimore over the last sixty years, finding contrasting themes that have emerged from a highly segregated city. According to the author, we are given two dominant portrayals: incompatible, incomplete, and only one seen as usable by a city government intent on constructing an image of Baltimore attractive to tourist dollars and investment in a post-industrial economy.

On the one hand, we have “Charm City,” a vision of Baltimore which stars “the Hon,” a fun stereotype of white, working-class, Southern womanhood that is “friendly, quirky, charming, and sassy.” This is an image that fits well with city promotional efforts and so has been bear hugged by the powers that be. The irony that an image drawn from working-class culture would be used to attract professionals and capital to a city whose working class had been devastated by the destruction of blue collar jobs in a period of globalization is not lost on Rizzo.

The other image is of Baltimore as a dangerous place. “The city that bleeds.” “Bodymore, Murdaland.” This is an image that was purveyed by shows like *Homicide* and *The Wire* and by an indigenous form of music—club music—which found popularity beyond the city limits and so shaped perceptions of Baltimore. The local establishment strove to suppress this image.

Rizzo’s analysis of filmmaker John Waters’ local meaning is particularly interesting. Rizzo points out that Waters has been looked at in the context of queer studies but not in the context of urban studies. However, in the 1960s, a young Waters took advantage of Baltimore’s urban renewal machinery by filming norm-violating acts in lightly surveilled areas of the city that had been abandoned to imminent urban renewal. His whiteness helped him get away with it. Often the shocked (or at least surprised) expressions of black bystanders served as a foil for his actors.

*Raispray* (1988) was the first film in which Waters tackled racial inequities, but even so, the civil rights effort portrayed there was spearheaded by a white person: Tracy Turnblad (Ricki Lake). *Hairspray* celebrated the underdog: the black dancers who were excluded from the Corny Collins Show (based on Baltimore’s real Buddy Deane Show) and Tracy herself, who was overweight and ridiculed by the other dancers.

According to Rizzo, however, many critics and fans seemed drawn more to the quirky early 1960s Baltimore set than to the racial struggle pictured, especially as the subsequent iterations of *Hairspray* hyperbolized Baltimore’s white working-class cultural characteristics more and more. In fact, the image of Charm City presented by Baltimore planners and promoters drew heavily on John Waters just as the Hon stereotype drew on Waters’s character Divine. While Waters’s initial intent was to violate social norms, his vision of
Baltimore was eventually co-opted by the marketers of the post-industrial city. Transgression became quirkiness in this travel magazine version of Baltimore.

Meanwhile, a parallel misapprehension occurred over in deadly “Bodymore.” Fans of *The Wire* were often more focused on its portrayal of the glamorous gangster lifestyle than on the show’s depiction of structural racism and political corruption. And by neglecting to showcase positive efforts by community organizations in the Baltimore ghetto, the show shaped an exaggerated view of a dangerous city, broken beyond repair.

Rizzo finds a truer picture of Baltimore in the street magazine *Chicory*—published beginning in 1966 by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and initially funded by the federal War on Poverty initiative. *Chicory* contained poetry and snippets of conversation collected from black community members between 1966 and 1983. Rizzo analyzes the purposes served by the publication for its liberal supporters as well as the purposes met for its contributors. For its funders and sponsors, *Chicory* provided a window into the black ghetto as well as a pressure release valve. For its contributors, *Chicory* provided a public forum where ideas and visions could be shared.

The author looks at the role history plays in the creative works she examines as well in the city’s promotional campaigns. *Hairspray*, while being the first popular film produced for a white audience to deal with Baltimore’s racist past, ultimately whitewashes it by changing the outcome of the actual struggle on which it was based. *The Buddy Deane Show* eventually went off the air rather than integrate while Waters’s *Corny Collins Show* integrates in a made-for-Hollywood happy ending.

Other films from the period with depictions of Baltimore, such as Barry Levinson’s *Diner* and *Tin Men*, ignore the existence of racism and, according to Rizzo, nostalgically portray the early 1960s as a golden era. Likewise, city planners and boosters pushed racism out of sight, emphasizing historical artifacts that fit with their image of Charm City. Rizzo writes that in these types of city promotional efforts, “history, at best, can be mobilized to give symbolic value, but it is not truly valued.” History lay in the path of “a municipal hype machine that swept growing racial inequality under the rug of marketing campaigns, inoffensive art, and stories about eccentric white people.”
Watch the Lion:
Celestial Wonders in Leo

David Prosper

Leo is a prominent sight for stargazers in April. Its famous sickle, punctuated by the bright star Regulus, draws many a beginning stargazer’s eyes, inviting deeper looks into some of Leo’s celestial delights, including a great double star and a famous galactic trio.

Leo’s distinctive forward sickle, or “reverse question mark,” is easy to spot as it climbs the skies in the southeast after sunset. If you are having a difficult time spotting the sickle, look for bright Sirius and Procyon and complete a triangle by drawing two lines to the east, joining at the bright star Regulus, the “period” in the reverse question mark. Trailing them is a trio of bright stars forming an isosceles triangle, the brightest star in that formation named Denebola. Connecting these two patterns together forms the constellation of Leo the Lion, with the forward-facing sickle being the lion’s head and mane, and the rear triangle its hindquarters. Can you see this mighty feline? It might help to imagine Leo proudly sitting up and staring straight ahead, like a celestial Sphinx.

If you peer deeper into Leo with a small telescope or binoculars, you’ll find a notable double star! Look in the sickle of Leo for its second-brightest star, Algieba, which is also called Gamma Leonis. This star splits into two bright yellow stars with even a small magnification; you can make this “split” with binoculars, but it’s more apparent with a telescope. Compare the color and intensity of these two stars - do you notice any differences? There are other multiple star systems in Leo; spend a few minutes scanning with your instrument of choice, and see what you discover.

The stars of Leo. Note that you may see more or less stars, depending on your sky quality. The brightness of the Leo Triplet has been exaggerated for the purposes of the illustration; you can’t see them with your unaided eye.
One of the most famous sights in Leo is the “Leo Triplet.” The Leo Triplet is three galaxies that appear to be close together. They are indeed gravitationally bound to one another, around 30 million light years away! You’ll need a telescope to spot them, and use an eyepiece with a wide field of view to see all three galaxies at once! Look below the star Chertan to find these galaxies. Compare and contrast the appearance of each galaxy; while they are all spiral galaxies, each one is tilted at different angles to our point of view! Do they all look like spiral galaxies to you?

April is Citizen Science Month, and there are some fun Leo-related activities you can participate in! If you enjoy comparing the Triplets, the “Galaxy Zoo” project (galaxyzoo.org) could use your eyes to help classify different galaxies from sky survey data! Looking at Leo itself can even help measure light pollution: the Globe at Night project (globeatnight.org) also used Leo as their target constellation for sky quality observations from the Northern Hemisphere for their April campaign, which ran from April 3-12. Find and participate in many more NASA community science programs at science.nasa.gov/citizenscience. Happy observing!

This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network. The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov to find local clubs, events, and more!

Your view of the three galaxies in the Leo Triplet won’t look as amazing as this image taken by the VLT Survey Telescope, unless you have a telescope with a mirror 8 feet or more in diameter! Still, even a small telescope will help your eyes pick up these three galaxies as “faint fuzzies”—objects that seem blurry against a background of pinpoint stars. Let your eyes relax and experiment with observing these galaxies by looking slightly away from them, instead of looking directly at them; this is called averted vision, a handy technique that can help you see details in fainter, more nebulous objects.

Image Credit: ESO, INAF-VST, OmegaCAM; Acknowledgement: OmegaCen, Astro-WISE, Kapteyn I.
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