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Editor’s Note

Greetings and a warm welcome to summer, Crab readers! I’m delighted to be your new Crab editor and appreciate all the hard work and dedication of our copy-editing team as well as the welcome and feedback I’ve received. I’d also like to thank longtime Crab editor Annette Haldeman for her work with the publication. Annette’s commitment, organization, and attention to detail are unparalleled, and it is my sincere hope that she will enjoy being a Crab reader instead of reader/editor going forward!

This issue looks back at some opportunities from this year’s MLA/DLA Conference, but I know you are all looking ahead as well, particularly to planning the MLA 2023 Centennial and the exciting events the year ahead has in store. Thank you for sharing all the ways you are advancing and nurturing education, bridging gaps, and leading and contributing in your communities and the statewide library community. We welcome your submissions and look forward to reading and learning about what all of the MLA committees, divisions, and interest groups have to contribute!

Julie Fitzpatrick, MLA Crab Editor
Howard County Library System

For the first time in two years, the MLA/DLA Annual Conference returned in person! During May 4th–6th the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland saw us celebrate and learn together. Thank all of you who helped make this a time to remember.

See page 15 for more photos of this year’s MLA/DLA Conference.
President's Message

Nay Keppler, MLA President
Howard County Public Library

I am so thrilled to be writing my first President’s Message for The Crab! I ran for Vice President/President Elect in the throes of the pandemic. Since that time, we sadly lost an incredible director; happily hired a new incredible director; welcomed on board the LGBTQ+ Interest Group, Equity Diversity and Inclusion Panel, and the Black Caucus of MLA (BCMLA); held two virtual conferences and an in-person conference, and made many strides in our work in advocacy and legislation.

One of our spring highlights was certainly the conference. The Conference Committee did an absolutely outstanding job bringing us all together for learning, playing, singing, and trivia-ing! I cannot overstate how amazing it was to be in conversation with our special keynote speaker, Patty Wong, President of the American Library Association. Patty discussed combating censorship, managing self-care in challenging times, fighting disinformation, advancing digital equity, and more. She also applauded the work of BCMLA and those who have worked in the digital equity space with regard to Maryland’s eBook legislation. Maryland continues to live up to its title of library heaven!

Coming back from the conference, the Steering Committee is hitting the ground running with planning for next year. My goals for the year include creating a new MLA Strategic Plan, updating our dues structure, and planning and implementing marketing and outreach initiatives for new member recruitment and retention. These will all require help and feedback from Maryland library community members, so keep an eye on Marylib for calls for input. Another goal is to plan a year-long celebration for the Maryland Library Association’s Centennial—which will take place in November 2023! Yes—this awesome organization has been in existence nearly 100 years, and we continue to get better and better with each year.

So, sit tight and buckle in – it’s definitely going to be an exciting year!
2022 Maryland Library Association Awards Winners

Debby Bennett, MLA Awards Chair, Executive Director, Caroline County Public Library

Thank you to my committee and to all the Maryland Library Association members who submitted nominations for this year’s awards to celebrate the contributions to Maryland’s libraries in 2022. It has been a pleasure serving as Chair of the MLA Awards Committee for 2020, 2021 and 2022. I want to thank Cathy Hollerbach and Janet Salazar who offered to co-chair this committee in 2023.

Distinguished Service Award
Senator Sarah Elfreth and Delegate Eric Ebersole

This award recognized their leadership in developing and passing the Building Lifelong Library Learner’s Act in 2020. This bill provided additional funding that allowed Maryland to become the first state in the nation to implement fine-free for children across the entire state. The bill also increased the annual allocation to Maryland’s Capital Grant Program for the first time since 2008 and included a per capita increase through fiscal year 2025 for the State Library Resource Center. All of those important programs have the goal of building lifelong library learners! But that wasn’t enough—the bill was vetoed by the Governor in fiscal year 2020, as were all bills with a fiscal note. Senator Elfreth and Delegate Ebersole took the lead and pushed through a successful veto override during the 2021 legislative session.
Honorary Membership
Wesley Wilson

Wesley has had a profound and positive impact on thousands of library staff from across the state in his role as an Enoch Pratt Free Library staff member since 1969 and, most significantly, as Chief of Maryland’s State Library Resource Center (SLRC) since 2000. He is an active member of Maryland’s Library Associate Training Institute’s Oversight Committee and is a presenter at the twice-a-year SLRC conference and tour. He has been a member of MLA’s Maryland Legislative Panel for 10 years and Chair of the Sailor Internet Task Force.

Outstanding Member
Michelle Hamiel and Morgan Miller

MLA president Mary Anne Bowman recommended the organization present two awards this year due to stellar and much-needed contributions both to MLA and to Maryland’s libraries.

Michelle Hamiel

Michelle led the MLA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force since the very beginning in 2018 under then-MLA President Joe Thompson. Under her leadership, we revised meeting and programming procedures to ensure they were inclusive, issued a statement about racism, and developed an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement. Most recently, Michelle led us to form a new LGBTQ+ Interest Group and worked to form a Black Caucus Chapter of MLA. All this great work will forever change the organization and will make it more inclusive and diverse. In addition to her work with MLA, Michelle also leads the Maryland State Library Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force. She often presents on this topic as an authority on the subject.

Morgan Miller

Morgan led Maryland Library Association during two different crises — Covid-19 and the sudden passing of the MLA Executive Director. She worked with the Board in hiring an Interim Director and led the search committee for a permanent Executive Director. Her leadership was extraordinary and steady during a time of great upheaval.
The Margaret Carty Emerging Leader Award
Anita Crawford

Anita Crawford has acted as a voice for underrepresented groups in MLA since she started with the Leadership Development Division a few years ago, and this work has evolved now that she is the leader of the Membership Committee. During executive board meetings, she consistently shares feedback on how the organization can better represent support staff, people of color and students specifically. She uses her experiences as a support staff leader to create solutions to improve the organization and make it not only accessible, but welcoming and engaging for all. She is not only interested in bringing new members into the organization, but also in keeping them excited and engaged in MLA and the profession as a whole while they are here. During her time as the Leadership Development Division president, she brought in speakers on topics vital to furthering our work in EDI. No idea is too big or too small to bring to Anita. She is incredibly creative and an outside-the-box thinker.

President’s Customer Service Award
Rachel Myers and staff of AACPL’s Discoveries: The Library at the Mall

This award recognized their creative ways to innovate and provide services to customers. When the Mall was closed during the pandemic, they offered virtual programming, outdoor programming in partnership with Westfield Annapolis Mall and vaccine clinics at the branch. A 120% increase in foot traffic in their wing of the Mall since opening in 2019 shows they are reaching new populations. They are continuing to innovate by developing and sustaining the new Mama and Baby Pantry at Discoveries at the Mall.

Outstanding Paraprofessional Award
Connie Trent

Connie works tirelessly for the Deale Branch of Anne Arundel County Public Library. She works to make the branch beautiful, organized, and friendly. When she finds a problem, she takes care of it with aplomb. She is a wonderful trainer, a wonderful circulation assistant, and a great part of her branch manager’s team.

Connie will be given a free one-year membership to MLA as part of her award.
Outstanding Volunteer Award

We have three winners from three different libraries for outstanding volunteer work. All were different, but all made a large and positive impact on their library systems for many years.

Carolyn Guy, St. Mary’s County Library

Carolyn served as a Trustee for the St. Mary’s County Library for 14 years, including serving as its president for five years. Her term involved many challenges, including protests over the collection, equitable use of the meeting room and attempts by the governing agency to change how trustees are appointed in order to inject political influence into the running of the library. Carolyn’s strength, wisdom, and grace assisted her library in overcoming these many challenges, which included an attempt to defund the library. Her friendly relations with employees and un-failing support of the library have made her an amazingly valuable asset. She is now term-limited but continues to serve by joining the Friends of the Library.

Andrea and Michael Pugh, Cecil County Public Library

Both have had a long-running and integral role in the success of Cecil County Public Library. Andrea has served since 2018 as the Chair of the Friends Foundation, the library’s chief fundraising and advocacy nonprofit board. When plans to finally build a new North East Branch Library became real, she answered Morgan Miller’s call to actively fundraise and sustain citizen support to make this exceptional library what it is today: an incredible gathering and learning place for the entire community. Andrea’s husband Mike, a former head of Economic Development for Cecil County and project manager for a regional company, established many relationships in the community over the years. They were the perfect team to run what they called CCPL’s “Raising 21st Century Child” campaign, which raised over $1 million.

Wanda Sherriff, Chestertown, MD, Kent County Public Library

Despite the pandemic challenges, Ms. Wanda’s hard-working efforts on the fall 2021 book sale helped the Friends of the Library reach their pre-pandemic goal. The Friends raised $9,000 so far this year, impacting more than 1,000 people in Kent County. Because of her tireless fundraising efforts, KCPL was able to offer a Summer Reading program that attracted 824 participants — an increase of almost 100% in participation numbers! Furthermore, this funding from the Friends allows KCPL to implement more adult programming for seniors and retirees (their biggest demographic) and supported an initiative to distribute at-home Covid-19 test kits to 100 families.
At the MLA/DLA Conference, wanting to support local Black businesses and to take in the history and culture of Cambridge, the new Black Caucus of the Maryland Library Association (BCMLA) sponsored a trip to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park Visitor Center and Museum.

About 25 conference attendees made the trip. Visitors were immersed in Tubman’s world, and through film and exhibits we learned more about the region “where she was born into slavery (1822), grew into a young woman determined to gain freedom, and where she returned to rescue her family and friends to bring them north to freedom.”

Tubman’s life during the Civil War and afterwards was also well-covered. Here is a must see (16 min) film, Harriet Tubman: Soldier of Freedom.

Much appreciation to EBSCO’s Elise Gold, who sponsored a passenger van from the hotel to the museum.
Building for the Future with FOLIG

Tracy Miller, Harford County Public Library

The Future of Libraries Interest Group presented “Building for the Future” at the MLA Annual Conference. We planned a highly interactive program to take advantage of being together again in person. Participants in the session had the opportunity to work together in small groups to build the library of the future.

We started the program with Michael Blackwell of St. Mary’s County Library talking about the process of being future-focused. Thomas Vose from Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County built on Michael’s information by sharing resources for trend scanning and inviting the audience to share theirs as well. Then, Antonio Rebelo and Julia Ventura-Crawford from Grimm & Parker Architects gave a thoughtful presentation about trends affecting library building. Their presentation was packed with information and lots of pictures of beautiful libraries. The presentation has been uploaded to the MLA/DLA Conference Sched page; you should check it out!

Then folks had a chance to get to work! Antonio passed out library site plans for real locations here in Maryland. Teams worked together to design future-focused libraries for the sites based on what they had learned. In this version of the future, there are unlimited budgets, so the teams were really able to use their imaginations. At the end, everyone shared their plans for more great libraries in the state of Maryland!

If this kind of work sounds like fun, you should get involved in the Future of Libraries Interest Group! For more information, contact Tracy Miller at millert@hcplonline.org.
Exploration Commons at 50 East
Shelby O’Leary, Carroll County Public Library

Carroll County Public Library is excited to announce that Exploration Commons at 50 East is now open to the public. Located at 50 East Main Street in the Westminster Branch, The Commons has a makerspace, teaching kitchen and several meeting rooms varying in size.

Exploration Commons offers access to equipment, resources, and knowledge to anyone who is interested in learning something new. Our staff and guest presenters provide instruction and education to the community through stimulating programming. This space also promotes workforce development by providing access and training for those looking to learn new job skills, connecting career mentors with youth and adults seeking new workforce opportunities and providing tools, training, and support for startups and businesses to develop innovative products and services. This space and all it has to offer will be a great benefit to our community.

The makerspace is a community center where tools are provided to design, engineer, fabricate, and learn. All skill levels are welcome, and it offers a safe do-it-yourself environment where failure is just another step in the learning process. Guests may use the makerspace for self-directed creative time or work with the staff and guest instructors to learn something new.

With new technologies coming out every day, the list of available equipment will be ever-changing. A non-exhaustive list of equipment includes: 3D printers, laser cutters, 3D scanner, sewing machines, audio and video processing software, large format plotter/scanner, vinyl cutter, virtual and augmented reality equipment and software, robotics, and Arduino micro-computers. All users must complete an orientation session on the equipment they wish to use. Programs held in the makerspace will be led by an instructor and may also have age restrictions depending on the equipment used or content of the program.

Exploration Commons offers a commercial-grade demonstration kitchen that provides the community with creative and educational ways to connect through food. Together, we engage in experiences, programs, and hands-on classes to gain skills and confidence in the kitchen, both personally and professionally. We provide fundamental cooking classes, nutrition and health education, and workforce development opportunities for everyone in the community. Staff and guest presenters encourage curiosity of new cooking techniques and global cuisines to cultivate positive food experiences. We highlight accessible and affordable foods, so participants feel empowered to recreate the recipes at home.

Staff create programs to serve community members of all ages and local organizations. We foster respect of others and all food cultures by providing diverse and inclusive instruction.

The new space also includes a large meeting room that seats up to 150 people, a classroom/conference room, and two collaboration spaces. All these spaces include state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment and offer flexible seating arrangements. To book one of these rooms, please follow the same policies and procedures in place for all other CCPL meeting rooms.

To learn more about Exploration Commons, visit https://explorationcommons.carr.org/
Two guests making tea sandwiches in the Teaching Kitchen.

Two teens participate in the Dr. Seuss Design Challenge.

Local business owner, Bernie, uses the laser-engraver in the Makerspace to promote his baking company.
MLA/DLA 2022 Conference Photos

Enjoy the Annual Conference photo spread!
Photo credits go to Kelley Keimig, Frederick County Public Libraries.
I’m just sitting in my car and waiting for my girl.....
I’m just sitting in my car and waiting for my... ---- girl.....

I love you baby
and if it’s quite alright
I need you baby
to warm the lonely night
OutRAIGeous Reviews

Books recommended by members of the Reader’s Advisory Interest Group

River of Teeth, by Sarah Gailey (St. Martin’s Press, 2017)
Review by Meg Faller

River of Teeth by Sarah Gailey was one of the weirder alternate history adventures I’ve read! Were you aware that there was a real plan in the early 1900s to import hippopotami to the marshes of Louisiana to be bred and slaughtered as a meat source? This a part of history I did not know about, for sure! However, it’s fairly common knowledge that hippos are extremely dangerous, and this kind of venture seems like a spectacularly bad plan, which is probably why it never happened.

But what if it did? Hippo ranchers would need to be a thing. These ranchers would need mounts they could wrangle hippos with, so would there have been domesticated hippos to ride? Yes, yes, yes! It takes special kinds of people to take on a challenge as dangerous as this, and Sarah Gailey has brought them to life in this wild romp of a western.
If the Shoe Fits: A Meant to Be Novel by Julie Murphy (Hyperion Avenue, 2021)

Review by Amy Jenkins

Do you like the reality tv show “The Bachelor”? If your answer is yes, then I have the perfect book for you! If the Shoe Fits by Julie Murphy is a romantic comedy that follows the life of Cindy, a recent fashion graduate. The plot features her stepmother - the executive producer of a reality tv show - her two traditionally beautiful daughters turned contestants, and an extremely handsome bachelor. After some hesitation, Cindy decides to enter into the mix and shake things up. After all, big girls deserve love too! For fans of Jennifer Weiner and Christina Lauren.
**Vinegar Hill, by Colm Tóibín (Beacon Press, 2022)**

*Review by Jeffrey Stainbrook*

While poetry is not a genre I frequent, but given that April was National Poetry Month, I was excited to see a work of poetry from one of my favorite authors, Colm Tóibín (most known for works including *Brooklyn* and, more recently, *The Magician*). *Vinegar Hill* explores the impressions of passing moments - both private and public - across a range of themes and topics including mortality, reflections on literary greats, politics, and sexuality. Tóibín’s life, one that is well-travelled and well-appreciated, is echoed in his poetic verses. He takes the readers on a journey from his hometown of Enniscorthy, Ireland, to his coming-of-age in Dublin, to his visits to cities around the world, including Washington D.C., Budapest, and Venice. Tóibín uses discussions and conversations about the space in which we exist, and how understanding one’s past will allow us to identify with the present.

Overall, much of this compendium offers the pleasures of a gradual, meandering stroll through one’s fondness of reminiscences. It is a dramatic and beautiful collection of poems written across several decades through the lens of keen observation, emotion, and humor. In this work, the reader will find lines that ask us questions, provoke us to contemplation, and lead us to treasure memories come and gone.
Solstice Shadows

David Prosper

Solstices mark the changing of seasons, occur twice a year, and feature the year’s shortest and longest daylight hours — depending on your hemisphere. These extremes in the length of day and night make solstice days more noticeable to many observers than the subtle equality of day and night experienced during equinoxes. Solstices were some of our earliest astronomical observations, celebrated throughout history via many summer and winter celebrations.

Solstices occur twice yearly, and in 2022 they arrive on June 21 at 5:13 am EDT (9:13 UTC), and December 21 at 4:48 pm EST (21:48 UTC). The June solstice marks the moment when the Sun is at its northernmost position in relation to Earth’s equator, and the December solstice marks its southernmost position. The summer solstice occurs on the day when the Sun reaches its highest point at solar noon for regions outside of the tropics, and those observers experience the longest amount of daylight for the year. Conversely, during the winter solstice, the Sun is at its lowest point at solar noon for the year and observers outside of the tropics experience the least amount of daylight and the longest night — of the year. The June solstice marks the beginning of summer for folks in the Northern Hemisphere and winter for Southern Hemisphere folks, and in December the opposite is true, as a result of the tilt of Earth’s axis of rotation. For example, this means that the Northern Hemisphere receives more direct light from the Sun than the Southern Hemisphere during the June solstice. Earth’s tilt is enough that northern polar regions experience 24-hour sunlight during the June solstice, while southern polar regions experience 24-hour night, deep in Earth’s shadow. That same tilt means that the Earth’s polar regions also experience a reversal of light and shadow half a year later in December, with 24 hours of night in the north and 24 hours of daylight in the south. Depending on how close you are to the poles, these extreme lighting conditions can lead to dramatic seasonal changes.

These images from NASA’s DSCOVR mission shows the Sun-facing side of Earth during the December 2018 solstice (left) and June 2019 solstice (right). Notice how much of each hemisphere is visible in each photo; December’s solstice heavily favors the Southern Hemisphere and shows all of South America and much of Antarctica and the South Pole, but only some of North America. June’s solstice, in contrast, heavily favors the Northern Hemisphere and shows the North Pole and the entirety of North America, but only some of South America.

Credit: NASA/DSCOVR EPIC

Source: https://www.nasa.gov/imagefeature/goddard/2021/summer-solstice-in-the-northern-hemisphere
conditions can last for many months, their duration deepening the closer you are to the poles.

While solstice days are very noticeable to observers in mid to high latitudes, that’s not the case for observers in the tropics - areas of Earth found between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Instead, individuals experience two “zero shadow” days per year. On these days, with the sun directly overhead at solar noon, objects cast a minimal shadow compared to the rest of the year. If you want to see your own shadow at that moment, you have to jump! The exact date for zero shadow days depends on latitude; observers on the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° north of the equator) experience a zero shadow day on the June solstice, and observers on the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° south of the equator) get their zero shadow day on December’s solstice. Observers on the equator experience two zero shadow days, being exactly in between these two lines of latitude; equatorial zero shadow days fall on the March and September equinoxes.

There is some serious science that can be done by carefully observing solstice shadows. In approximately 200 BC, Eratosthenes is said to have observed sunlight shining straight down the shaft of a well during high noon on the solstice, near the modern-day Egyptian city of Aswan. Inspired, he compared measurements of solstice shadows between that location and measurements taken north, in the city of Alexandria. By calculating the difference in the lengths of these shadows, along with the distance between the two cities, Eratosthenes calculated a rough early estimate for the circumference of Earth – and also provided further evidence that the Earth is a sphere!

Are you having difficulty visualizing solstice lighting and geometry? You can build a “Suntrack” model that helps demonstrate the path the Sun takes through the sky during the seasons; find instructions at stanford.io/3FY4m8m. You can find more fun activities and resources like this model on NASA Wavelength: science.nasa.gov/learners/wavelength. And of course, discover the latest NASA science at nasa.gov.

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

A presenter from the San Antonio Astronomy Club in Puerto Rico demonstrating some Earth-Sun geometry to a group during a “Zero Shadow Day” event. As Puerto Rico lies a few degrees south of the Tropic of Cancer, their two zero shadow days arrive just a few weeks before and after the June solstice. Globes are a handy and practical way to help visualize solstices and equinoxes for large outdoor groups, especially outdoors during sunny days!

Credit & Source: Juan Velázquez / San Antonio Astronomy Club
Anita Crawford and the Silent Auction

Julie Fitzpatrick, Howard County Library System

The Crab is excited to spotlight Anita Crawford, the Technical Processing Services Supervisor at Baltimore County Public Library. Anita previously worked in Circulation at Carroll County Public Library, as a page, circulation clerk, and branch circulation manager. Anita is the leader of the Maryland Library Association Membership Committee, acting as a voice for underrepresented groups in MLA since she started with the Leadership Development Division a few years ago. Anita is also the 2022 recipient of the Margaret Carty Emerging Leader Award. Here is an excerpt from MLA President Nay Keppler’s nomination about Anita's exceptional work, dynamic leadership, and valued perspective:

“I appreciate the perspective she offers as it helps me to be a better leader and helps me to better understand member needs. She stepped up to a very important role this last year and has already dived in to creating a comprehensive five-year plan on membership retention and acquisition that will soon be shared with the executive board for feedback… She is a powerhouse!”

In the Membership Committee, Anita has worked alongside Nay Keppler as well as Beth Heltebridle of Frederick County Public Library to draft a dues structure for MLA that will be more accessible for library systems to support. She hopes to encourage membership at all levels, including circulation departments and non-degreed library workers. Anita says, “As a member of MLA and the Membership Committee, I am very devoted to finding ways to get more underrepresented library workers involved in the association, including those in circulation, non-degreed staff or those without their MLS, and marginalized library workers. I will be doing what I can to amplify those voices within the organization.”

Anita participated in the MLA/DLA Conference this year, where she co-presented “Digital Communication: Give Better to Get Better” and also was the enthusiastic winner of a quilt made by outgoing President Mary Anne Bowman for the Silent Auction. Anita says, “As soon as I saw Mary Anne Bowman post her completed Silent Auction quilt on Facebook, I was excited to put in a bid for it at conference. The idea of a guaranteed win was too alluring, so I secured the quilt using the “Buy-it Now” option. It has now been promoted to my favorite blanket to use (I’ve already taken it with me on two trips out of town), but that also means I am required to share it with my dog, Charlie, at all times.” The quilt, pictured here with Anita and Charlie, is made from Anne of Green Gables-patterned fabric.

Congratulations to Anita on her award and the valuable work the Membership Committee is drafting to promote and encourage new members as well as retain existing members within MLA.

If you have a suggestion for an MLA member to spotlight in a future Crab issue, please forward their name to julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org. The Crab is looking forward to highlighting emerging leaders and unsung exemplars throughout MLA.
Keep up with MLA/ALA events...Share job openings...
Offer weeded items from your collection to others...Ask a question!

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