Early Literacy classes, p. 8

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Teen Live!
Happy New Year -
and Lunar New Year!
Be creative
Letter from the President and CEO
Happy New Year! As 2024 begins, we are excited to launch our new strategic plan. The process of setting new goals for HCLS included months of listening to our community. More than 3,000 members of the community and library staff contributed to conceiving our new mission to Learn, Grow, and Connect.

Over the next three years, we will seek opportunities to engage our community in concrete ways to increase the number of children who begin kindergarten ready to learn, to engage with teens and young adults so they feel an increased sense of agency and belonging, and to work toward an inclusive, connected community where everyone feels they belong. We look forward to seeing you at the library, as we collectively strive for the best for Howard County.

As you leaf through this magazine, take note of the work we’re already doing. Adam Davidson, who co-founded NPR’s Planet Money, kicks off Career Success Month with an online discussion about how artificial intelligence could affect the future of business. We’re thrilled to follow this with a range of related classes, including Design Thinking for Entrepreneurs in partnership with the county’s Economic Development Authority.

Our second annual seed share, in partnership with local environmental groups, takes place on January 20. Start thinking warm thoughts while planning your spring garden. We also invite you to discover the Equity Resource Center at our Central Branch and its new Reader’s Exchange, where you can chat about books you’ve enjoyed and get some new recommendations.

Every branch offers classes for small children that help to prepare them for school, including early literacy techniques and social fundamentals. A full list of our regularly occurring classes can be found on pages 8-9. For middle school and high school students, Teen Live! offers an opportunity for fun and positive social interaction with friends at the library (p. 6).

As always, we hope to see you at our gala fundraiser in February (p. 3). This year, we’re hosting A Flower-full Evening in the Stacks, with proceeds benefiting our budding readers and helping them be ready to succeed in school. It’s the best party in Howard County as we transform our East Columbia Branch into a destination dance party for the night.

For one night, the library transforms into a dance party with great music, food stations, open bars, and fun. Don’t miss this annual gala fundraiser featuring a guest DJ, gourmet cuisine by Rouge Catering, signature drinks by The Wine Bin and Sobar, photo ops, and more.

This year’s proceeds benefit HCLS’ early childhood initiatives that help our community’s budding learners grow.

Tickets on sale January 10: $100
February 1:
$125 for one/$225 for two

PRIZES INCLUDE:
• 2 tickets to event (drawn Feb 17)
• Branch baskets full of donations from local retailers
• 1 Grand Prize: PlayStation 5 Console with controller

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit hclibrary.org/stacks.

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO
Happy New Year!

by Brandon Bannister, Central Branch

Are you ready to make 2024 your best year? The new year can bring a level of optimism, excitement, and stress to some. Setting unrealistic New Year’s resolutions can be exhausting, so keep your expectations realistic. No matter if you are looking to improve your mental, spiritual, and physical health, you can visit us in person or online. To accomplish your goals for 2024, you have to adopt a clear mindset, so you can achieve the right philosophies and produce the right results.

Destructive Thinking by Bishop T.D. Jakes offers guidance in having a strategy, spiritual guidance, and plan for the new year. If you are interested in improving your leadership and interpersonal skills, consider author John C. Maxwell to help you improve these talents.

Are you ready to burn off a few extra holiday pounds from all of those delicious meals and desserts? You can find great suggestions in our health collection, which focuses on fitness, nutrition, and many forms of exercise such as weight lifting, cycling, walking, and running. The late great Suzanne Somers’ books and videos may inspire you to get your body into great shape. Nutrition plays a major role in weight loss and management.

Nutrition plays a major role in weight loss and management. Author Dr. Ian Smith focuses on nutrition and meal plans, and offers advice for an individual to burn fat and make lifestyle changes.

Set Yourself Up for Success in 2024

For adults. Register at bit.ly/success_hcls
Reflect, celebrate and learn lessons from 2023 as you dream, prepare, and create an exciting and fulfilling year in 2024.

Thu Jan 18 7 - 8:30 pm Central

Sign up for newsletters to stay on top of all the great classes and events happening at HCLS. We’re introducing a series of email newsletters to make sure you don’t ever say, “I wish I’d known about that!”

Visit hclibrary.org/about-us/news/enewsletter and opt in to the ones that interest you:

- Children
- Teens
- Adults
- Library of Things: Makerspace, DIY, AV Lab
- HiTech
- Author events
- HiLights: general HCLS news
- Brave Voices, Brave Choices

News this Year: Direct to You!

Visit hclibrary.org > online resources > stream. Find Kanopy under Music, Movies, TV, eAudio.
Staff Spotlight: Adriana Sass

Title and branch: Children's Instructor & Research Specialist at HCLS Elkridge Branch

How long have you been with HCLS? 5 years

What excites you the most about your work and/or HCLS as a whole? I really enjoy helping others and being able to be of service. I especially like connecting with the Hispanic community, helping them find and use free library resources, and promoting our Latin culture through classes and events. I have promoted a lot of our library resources such as Project Literacy and online resources such as Rosetta Stone, Muzzy, and other language learning opportunities.

How are you involved in the community? I have joined multiple community groups on Facebook and WhatsApp to help promote our library resources, classes, and events. It’s a great way to stay connected with our customers and find out about their needs and concerns.

What’s an unusual fact about you? I was once a Zumba Instructor at various gyms and venues. I love dancing and teaching how to dance.

What’s your favorite place to travel? I love traveling back home. Colombia, South America is where I was born and raised. There are so many beautiful places to explore, along with amazing food and family.

Favorite time of year? The summer because I get to enjoy more time outdoors with my kids, at the beach, the pool, etc. The warmth and the green colors of summer remind me of home.

Favorite type of music? I love to listen, sing, and dance to Latin music.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Anywhere in the Caribbean with a gorgeous beach. I love swimming and snorkeling in the ocean. I take any chance I get to escape the cold winter weather.

Do you speak other languages? I am fluent in Spanish. I also speak a little bit of French and Italian.

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Ready for Kindergarten

It’s never too early to bring your child to classes at the library! We offer a stimulating, literacy-rich environment for young children and encourage you to talk, read, and sing with your children every day. Students who lag behind their peers in kindergarten are challenged to catch up—and that gap can continue to grow throughout their K-12 career.

Library classes help:

• Introduce your child to books and the words in them. A large vocabulary works as a strong indicator for a child’s third grade reading level.

• Children and their adults participate in activities that include reading aloud, storytelling, finger-plays, rhymes, and songs—all of which increase vocabulary.

• Infants, toddlers, and their adults address common language standards, including social and emotional skills.

Check the online calendar for up-to-date information at howardcounty.librarycalendar.com.

Take advantage of the wealth of classes available at all six branches. You may look for specific classes by entering the class name in the Keyword Search box. You may also filter by branch.

FOLLOW US: Other classes and events are available at hclibrary.org/early-learning.

To Register for Classes:
Visit hclibrary.org > classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.

Play Partners
Newborns-23 months with adult; 20-30 min. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Newborns and toddlers learn to express feelings, language, and movement through stories, baby games, musical activities, and playtime.

Mondays  10:15 & 11:15 am Elkridge
Mondays  6:30 pm Central
Tuesdays  10:15 am Savage
Tuesdays  10:15 & 11:30 am Central
Wednesdays  10:30 am East Columbia
Thursdays  10:15 & 11:30 am [starting Jan 11]
Thursdays  10:30 am Glenwood
Fridays  10:15 & 11:30 am Central

Time for Us
Ages 18-35 months with adult; 30 min. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Toddlers gain coordination and control when using small and large muscles through stories, music, movement, fingerplays, rhyme, and playtime activities.

Wednesdays  10:15 am Savage
Wednesdays  10:15 & 11:30 am Miller [starting Jan 10]

3, 2, Fun
Ages 2-3 years with adult; 30 min. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Preschoolers get ready for school by doing things like talking, singing songs and rhymes, doing finger-plays, and listening to stories.

Tuesdays  10:30 am Glenwood
Tuesdays  10:15 & 11:15 am Miller [starting Jan 9]

All Together Now
Ages 3-5 years with adult; 45 mins. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Children learn through play and exploring the world around them. Stories and activities help with skills like getting along, talking and reading, moving and doing, math, science, and being creative.

Mondays  10:15 am (intermittently) Savage
Mondays  2 pm Glenwood
Tuesdays  10:15 & 11:15 am Elkridge
Tuesdays  2 & 3:15 pm Central
Fridays  11 am East Columbia
3rd Saturdays  11:30 am Savage

All By Myself Ages 4-6
Preschoolers go to class on their own. They learn to follow rules and routines, understand feelings, and talk about stories. They may also learn about shapes and numbers, use scissors, draw and write, make guesses about what is going to happen, learn about the world, and be creative.

Just for Me Ages 3-5
Mondays  10:15 & 11:30 am Central
Thursdays  10:15 am Savage

Pajama Time
Ages 0-5 with adult; 30 minutes. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

A class before bedtime, children build skills in singing, talking, listening, reading, and getting along with others through stories, music, rhymes, and activities. Children may wear their pajamas and bring their loves and blankets.

Mondays  7 pm Elkridge
Mondays  6:30 pm Miller [starting in Feb; check for other classes at this time in Jan.]
Tuesdays  7 pm Savage
Thursdays  7 pm Central

Picture Book Parade
Ages 2-5 with adult; 30 min. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Tales, tunes, and tons of fun!
Mondays  10:15 & 11:30 am Central
Fridays  10:15 am Savage

Just for Me & All By Myself
30 mins. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Preschoolers go to class on their own. They learn to follow rules and routines, understand feelings, and talk about stories. They may also learn about shapes and numbers, use scissors, draw and write, make guesses about what is going to happen, learn about the world, and be creative.

Just for Me Ages 3-5
Wednesdays  1:30 pm Elkridge
Thursdays  10:15 am Savage

All By Myself Ages 4-6
Tuesdays  2 pm Glenwood
Tuesdays  2 pm Miller [starting in Feb; check for other classes at this time in Jan.]

Bedtime Stories
Ages 0-5 with adult; 30 minutes. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

A class before bedtime, children build skills in singing, talking, listening, reading, and getting along with others through stories, music, rhymes, and activities. Children may wear their pajamas and bring their loves and blankets.

Mondays  7 pm Elkridge
Mondays  6:30 pm Miller [starting in Feb; check for other classes at this time in Jan.]
Tuesdays  7 pm Savage
Thursdays  7 pm Central

Ready for Kindergarten

Cuentos en Español y Tiempo de Juego
Ages 0-5 with adult; 30 minutes. Ticket required; available at the children’s desk 15 minutes before class.

Se requiere boleto; disponible en el mostrador de niños 15 minutos antes de la clase.

Únase a nosotros para cuentos, canciones y rimas en español.
Seguido de un tiempo de juego.

Mondays & Saturdays; 10:30 am Elkridge
AI and the Future of Work and Business with Adam Davidson

For adults. Register at bit.ly/AuthorDavidsononAI

Adam Davidson is an expert at demystifying complex topics, and he applies these skills to the most crucial issue of our time: the rise of AI. This talk is geared towards curious laypeople—from college students to business decision-makers—who know that AI is likely to transform their careers and business and need a clear framework to understand this new revolutionary technology. AI, he explains, will create massive new winners and, yes, a bunch of losers, as it rewrites our economic rules.

Davidson is the co-founder of NPR’s Planet Money podcast and a staff writer at The New Yorker, where he covers economics and business. Previously he was an economics writer for The New York Times Magazine. He has won many of journalism’s most prestigious awards, including a Peabody for his coverage of the financial crisis. All of his work has been focused on making the complex, confusing, sometimes depressing news about the economy it clear to a broad audience.

His work has appeared in The Atlantic, Harper’s, GQ, Rolling Stone, and other publications. He has served as a technical consultant in Hollywood, including to Adam McKay, co-writer and director of the Academy Award-winning film The Big Short.

Wed Jan 24 7 - 8 pm online

Career Success Month

Jan 22 - Feb 23, 2024

Maryland public libraries launch a new year with a month of programs on entrepreneurship and job advancement. During this month, classes focus on financial skill building and digital knowledge to navigate our rapidly changing work environment. These impactful, results-driven classes and programs occur in a mixture of in-person, virtual, and hybrid formats.

Hosted at library branches throughout Maryland, these programs provide information from subject-matter experts. Examples include:

- Design thinking for entrepreneurs
- How to work the gig economy
- The joy of owning a small business in retirement
- Learning Canva
- Mindfulness at work
- Speed mentoring
- Resume building and interview preparation

For a full listing of events, visit bit.ly/CSM2024-FutureOfWork.

Wed Jan 24 7 - 8 pm online

DESIGN THINKING FOR ENTREPRENEURS

For adults. Register at bit.ly/DesignforEntrepreneurs

Gain the tools you need to cut through ambiguity and move forward with confidence. Vance MacEwen, co-founder of Greatest Possible Good, teaches you through the design thinking process. The sessions cover:

- What design thinking is and how you can use it to build what your customers actually want, not just what you think they want.
- Practice customer interviews, collaborative research synthesis, rapid prototyping, and user testing in a fun, low-stakes way before carrying it out.
- Free one-on-ones with your instructor as you apply your new tools.

In partnership with the Howard County Economic Development Authority

Wednesdays; 6:30 - 8:30 pm Miller
Feb 2 & 28, Mar 6 & 13

Winning Resumes and Captivating Cover Letters

For adults. Register at bit.ly/winning_resumes

A resume and cover letter are essential marketing tools that allow you to highlight your career achievements and accomplishments to potential employers. Learn how to craft targeted resumes and cover letters that allow you to stand out. In partnership with the Office of Workforce Development.

Mon Jan 29 1 - 3 pm Elkridge

Investing – Beyond the Basics

For adults. Register at bit.ly/InvestingBeyond

Take a deeper dive into the concepts associated with investing, the difference between investing and speculation, as well as different investment tools and their tax implications. This educational webinar does not offer direct financial advice.

Wed Jan 31 6:30 - 7:30 pm online

Job Searching in the Digital Age

For adults. Register at bit.ly/digital_job_search

Interested in getting back into the workforce? Curious about the new “gig” economy? Hear an overview of how to use social media in your job search, learn digital job searching tools like LinkedIn, and gain tips and advice to job seekers. Learn about new opportunities for freelance work and how to supplement your income in innovative ways.

Mon Jan 8 11 am - 12 pm Glenwood

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit hclibrary.org > classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.
Did you know?
Equity Resource Center
by Emily Bell, Central Branch

Did you know that Central Branch is home to Howard County Library System's newest special collection? The Equity Resource Center (ERC) debuted in September 2021 with more than 9,000 items, offering a diverse and inclusive collection of adult, children, and teen materials spanning many formats and topics.

The idea for the Equity Resource Center first came about during the COVID-19 pandemic and the murder of George Floyd. Community members wanted a place to come together to learn and heal, a place where they could see themselves and their stories represented and have the opportunity to learn about those different than them.

Director of Collection Development Vera Davies explains the Equity Resource Center and its collection were established, “to support self-directed education and exhibits, facilitated and unfacilitated classes and conversations, and as a space for the community to identify, document, and share local issues and concerns.”

Some of the titles offered at the collection’s launch were recommended by members of HCLS’ Racial Equity Alliance. As the collection continues to grow, HCLS selectors choose materials that fall within a broad and inclusive scope that includes key themes like ableism, LGBTQIA+, the history of race and racism in the United States and Maryland, and more.

Dr. Kelly Clark, HCLS’ Chief Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Officer, has big ideas for the future of the Equity Resource Center. In addition to continuing to host exhibits and equity programs, Dr. Clark hopes to develop and introduce bundles with self-guided curricula. These bundles would feature various ERC materials - a book, movie, and music CD - alongside a study guide with reflection questions, activities, and suggestions on how to engage your friends and family in what you learn.

Dr. Clark hopes that the ERC, “will grow to be a coveted community resource as Howard County residents continue to grapple with tough contemporary issues of equity, inclusion and belonging.” Whether you want to research, learn, or grapple with tough contemporary issues of equity, inclusion and belonging.” Whether you want to research, learn, or celebrate, the Equity Resource Center has something for you.

Visit HCLS Central Branch to check out the collection in person or browse the collection online at hclibrary.org/special-collections/equity-resource-collection.

Reader’s Exchange: Black Authors of African Descent
For adults. Register at bit.ly/share_hcls.
Do you have a book written by a Black author of African descent that you can’t stop talking about? Have you read the last two books your friends recommended and don’t know what to read next? Hear what your fellow book lovers are raving about and share what you’re currently reading. You also learn about up-and-coming authors.
Wed  Feb 7  7 - 8 pm  Central

Recipe Exchange: African American Chefs & Culinary Innovation
For adults. Register at bit.ly/reci_feb
Discuss some notable African American chefs who are making their mark on cuisine, talk about their recipes, then share some. Meet with other foodies and indulge your culinary curiosity at our recipe exchange.
Sat  Feb 3  11:30 am - 12:30 pm  Savage

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks Film & Discussion
Watch and discuss the film The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, based on Rebecca Skloot’s critically acclaimed 2010 nonfiction bestseller of the same name. This HBO Films drama tells the true story of Henrietta Lacks, who became an unwitting pioneer for medical breakthroughs when her cells are used to create the first immortal human cell line in the early 1950s. Discussion follows the screening.
Thu  Feb 8  6:30 - 8:30 pm  Glenwood

Visit hclibrary.org/online-resources/research-tools. Find Gale In Context under Historical Research.

Celebrating Black History Month with Children
Check the online calendar for up-to-date information at howardcounty.librarycalendar.com.

Themed Sessions at Elkridge
Play Partners (infant-23 months)
Mon  Feb 19  10:15 - 10:45 am & 11:15 - 11:45 am
Pajama Time (families)
Mon  Feb 19  7 - 7:30 pm

Little Learners (3-5 years)
Tue  Feb 20  10:15 - 10:45 am & 11:15 - 11:45 am
3,2, Fun (2-3 years)
Wed  Feb 21  10:15 - 10:45 am & 11:15 - 11:45 am
Just For Me (3-6 years, independently)
Wed  Feb 21  1:30 - 2 pm

All Together Now (families)
Fri  Feb 23  10:15 - 10:45 am & 11:15 - 11:45 am

Themed Sessions at Savage
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Time For Us (18 months-3 years)
Wed  Feb 7  10:15 - 10:45 am
Just For Me (3-6 years, independently)
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Picture Book Parade (2-5 years)
Fri  Feb 9  10:15 - 10:45 am
All Together Now (families)
Sat  Feb 10  10:15 - 10:45 am
Express Your Creativity

by Sahana Callahan, Savage Branch

With the start of the new year comes the chance to start afresh, to explore new interests or hone old skills, and to follow through on resolutions that allow you to unlock your creativity. What better place to get inspired than the library? Across our branches, we've got innovative technology and tools to make your creative visions come to life. From the makerspace at Glenwood Branch to the DIY center at Elkridge Branch all the way to the A/V Lab at Savage Branch, there's plenty to inspire your imagination.

The makerspace at Glenwood is a one-stop shop for all things design. With tinker bins, there's opportunity for crafting and inventing in all sorts of innovative ways. The 3D printer is a professional grade machine and with a Glowforge, crafting and inventing in all sorts of innovative ways. The 3D printer allows for HCLS staff to print or cut your fully designed files.

The DIY Center boasts a vast collection of tools for all ages, ranging from baking, biking, camping, crafts, gardening, or home improvement. The instructors are always excited to help those interested in engaging more with the available tools at DIY classes held at Elkridge. The DIY Center even has a studio, a “mess-friendly” classroom, and workspace. To borrow from the DIY collection, you must have a DIY library card, available to those 21 and older, who live, work, or attend school in Maryland.

The A/V Lab at Savage also boasts a recording booth and 3D printer. During regular A/V Lab hours, a staff member can help answer basic questions about the computer software. You can use the instruments in place, and as always, classes can help familiarize you with each tool. Schedule a one-on-one appointment at the Savage Branch & STEM Education Center page on hclibrary.org.

If you want to find out more about how to unlock your creativity at the library this year, check out our classes, and visit us at the Makerspace, the DIY Center, or the A/V Lab. If you don't have time to make your project, though, the Maker-To-Order system allows for HCLS staff to print or cut your fully designed files.

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If you want to find out more about how to unlock your creativity at the library this year, check out our classes, and visit us at the Makerspace, the DIY Center, or the A/V Lab.

Craft Works
For adults. Register at bit.ly/craft_workers
Let your creativity shine in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Each month, learn about different art media and explore new techniques.

Woven Yarn Bowls
Tue  Jan 4   2 - 3:30 pm Central
Tue  Jan 16  7 - 8:30 pm Central

Classic Book Flowers
Tue  Feb 8   2 - 3:30 pm Central
Tue  Feb 20  7 - 8:30 pm Central

A/V Lab
For teens and adults. Registration preferred at bit.ly/avlab_sav
Drop-in to use the equipment in the A/V Studio. Record and mix music or create and edit movies with the help of a HiTech instructor. Walk-ins welcome.

Every Wednesday 5 - 7 pm Savage

How to Install Wainscoting
For adults. Register at bit.ly/wainscoting_div
Learn about the different types of wainscoting, then discuss, watch, and participate in installation techniques. Discuss the tools and materials you need to add texture and character to your walls.
Sat  Jan 6   11 am - 12:30 pm Elkridge

Winter Crafternoon
For ages 2-10. Ticket required. Drop in and make fun winter crafts.
Mon  Jan 22  2 - 3 pm East Columbia

Book Earrings and Charms
Make unique jewelry inspired by your favorite books.
Tue  Feb 27  7 - 8:30 pm Elkridge
Global Neighbors: Lunar New Year
For families. Experience the culture and contributions of one of the largest demographics in our community in this Global Neighbors series - China. Enjoy an afternoon that showcases the rich cultural heritage of China and celebrates Lunar New Year. Enjoy celebrating the diversity of our community that is truly enriched by so many different cultures.
A few featured performers pictured below.
Co-hosted by the Chinese American Parents Association (CAPA)
Sat  Feb 3  2 - 4 pm  Miller

BINGO! Social
For adults. Register at bit.ly/bingo_HCLS.
B-I-N-G-O! Get sociable and win prizes. Games held on a rotating Thursday schedule at all branches, so please make note of the location for each date. Click the branch name below to register; please register for each date separately.
Thu  Jan 11  2 - 4 pm  East Columbia
Thu  Feb 22  2-4 pm  Central

Cookbook Corner
For adults. Register at bit.ly/cookbook_corner.
Explore various culinary cuisines/chefs of the world with a new cuisine/chef every month. January's chef is the Pioneer Woman, Ree Drummond. Pick up any Pioneer Woman cookbook at the library, cook some recipes, and come have a culinary discussion!
Wed  Jan 17  7 - 8 pm  East Columbia

In Other Worlds
Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club
For adults. Register at bit.ly/in_other_worlds.
Welcome speculative fiction enthusiasts and other intrepid readers! Discuss a wide array of science fiction and fantasy books.
Wednesdays, 7 - 8 pm  East Columbia
Jan 24  Any Discworld book by Terry Pratchett
Feb 28  Noor by Nnedi Okorafor

Pets on Wheels
For all ages. Drop-in; no registration required.
Therapy dog(s) from Pets on Wheels available for friendly visits. Find a full schedule at bit.ly/hcls_pow.
Saturdays  East Columbia

Internet of Things
For adults. Register at bit.ly/3SGGrzu.
Hearing a lot about *smart* devices? We'll explain how it's all connected! Learn best practices for keeping your devices secure, how devices communicate to each other, and about the technology that is fueling smart homes and cities.
Fri  Jan 26  10 am - 12 pm  Glenwood

Senior Planet Lecture - Mindfulness Apps
For adults. Register at bit.ly/sp_mindful.
Use technology to learn new skills, save money, get in shape, and make new friends. Mindfulness is the ability to be fully present and aware. Learn about popular apps that teach breathing and meditation techniques, as well as new technology like wearable breath monitors and smart yoga mats. In partnership with Senior Planet from AARP.
Mon  Jan 29  2  - 3 pm  Savage

How to Help Incarcerated Individuals Create Their Own Successful Reentry
Returning citizens are often confronted with one pressing re-entry challenge after another, everything from finding a place to live and arranging substance abuse treatment to getting a job. Learn about the strategies that create positive outcomes.
Tue  Feb 13  6:30 - 7:30 pm  Miller

The Inconvenient Book Club discusses the latest climate fiction. Talk about Kazuo Ishiguro's novel Klara and the Sun, which sits at the intersection of artificial intelligence, humanity, and the hope for triumph over environmental and societal crises.

Ishiguro, the Nobel Prize-winning Japanese-British author of The Remains of the Day, returns to his theme of "what makes us human?" but adds a twist: What about the humanity of sentient machines? We consider climate change, AI, what we loved about the book, and what made us squirm.
As Microsoft founder Bill Gates wrote about the book, "In a world filled with stories about killer machines, it was refreshing to read about a future where robots make our lives better—even if they complicate things along the way."
Wed  Mar 6  7 - 8 pm  Miller

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TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit hclibrary.org > classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.
2nd annual Seed Share

A seed exchange is a great opportunity to acquire new varieties, save money, and reduce seed waste, while learning and sharing with fellow gardeners. Free demonstrations and information also available.

If you would like to share seeds, drop them at one of three locations, from January 1 - 18:
- HCLS Miller Branch
- HCLS Elkridge Branch
- Community Ecology Institute

Sat Jan 20 2 - 4 pm Miller

Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring
For adults. Register at bit.ly/289994W

Learn about sustainable gardening best practices for the spring season with Master Gardener Paul Beares. Beginning and casual home gardeners can benefit from tips on what gardening tasks to do in the spring. A full range of gardening types - vegetable, perennial, and native plant gardens - is discussed, along with design and on-going care recommendations.

Wed Jan 10 7 - 8 pm Miller

Growing Flowers and Vegetables from Seed
For adults. Register at bit.ly/3Np35rX

Growing vegetables and flowers from seed during the winter in preparation for spring and summer gardens is fun and rewarding. Learn types of media for planting seeds, how to plant seeds, care for seedlings, and the ease of transplanting and maintaining seedlings in the garden.

Wed Jan 17 7 - 8 pm Glenwood
Wed Jan 24 7 - 8 pm Miller

in partnership with

Edible Landscape

A Garden of Vegetables, Flowers and Herbs

thank you!

Our sincere thanks to the individuals, organizations, and businesses for their generous financial and in-kind donations to Howard County Library System. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list of those who made contributions between September 1 - October 31, 2023. Please call 410.313.7799 to report any errors or omissions.

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Triveni Supermarket

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February can be a frigid and desolate month. The joy and brightness of the holidays are long past and spring seems far away. Fortunately, the last Saturday of February brings Evening in the Stacks to Howard County, an event that transforms the winter darkness and cold into a magical universe that takes us to wonderful destinations. My wife and I have been going to the event for many years, and each time we eagerly speculate on what the theme will be and how it will be presented. Over the years, we have experienced Africa and Italy, encountered pirates and aliens, and have been immersed in pop culture. Evening in the Stacks is amazing! The event blends together a dazzling decor, delicious and imaginative food offerings, unique thematic drinks, and invigorating music, into an unforgettable night of fun. At the end of the evening, as we head home, our minds are filled with wonderful memories of another great Evening in the Stacks and the cold February air seems much less daunting. ~ Tony Trenkle, Friends & Foundation of HCLS Board Member

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friendshcls.org

Yards Alive!

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