Letter from the President and CEO

Ready, Set, Library! This year’s National Library Week theme reminds us that libraries are places for everyone to learn, grow, and connect. From classes for young children to prepare them for kindergarten, to homework help for K-12 students, to opportunities for adults to connect and learn from others, libraries are critical at every stage of life.

Over the last year, we actively engaged our community as we updated our strategic plan. Through that process we heard how much you love and value your library – and how much you need the library to provide early learning spaces, resources and instruction for preschoolers and their caregivers; places for teens to come together, discover opportunities, and explore new experiences; and a sense of belonging and inclusion for all ages.

As a result, we updated our mission, vision, and core values to reflect the words and voices of our community. We invite you to read our strategic plan on our website. Through the pages of this issue, you will see how we are working toward the goals outlined in the plan.

During Spring Break, every branch hosts classes and activities for children (p. 6). HiTech offers hands-on STEAM classes for middle and high school students (p. 6), and Teen Live! invites teens to our branches for fun, friends, music, and games (p. 4).

We welcome two authors of children’s books (p. 10). In March, Leah Rachel Berkowitz discuss the story of the Purim, a Jewish celebration, and Ira Marcks talks about his award-winning graphic novels in April.

We celebrate National Women’s History Month (p. 8) and National Poetry Month (p. 16) in March and April, and as the days get longer and warmer, we engage in growing and green things.

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National Library Week: April 7-13 2024

Take the Library on Your Life’s Journey

by Jean Bone, Central Branch

It’s time to celebrate libraries! We think every week is Library Week, but this annual event focuses attention on how libraries support and enrich our lives. As children’s author and National Library Week’s honorary chair, Meg Medina, observes:

“From book groups to lending sports equipment to providing a safe after-school hangout space and so much more, libraries support us wherever we find ourselves on the roadmap through life’s journey.”

In fact, libraries are there at life’s starting line, offering parents and caregivers of newborns, infants and toddlers the opportunity to talk, sing, read, and play together in a positive environment. Early trips to the library may be a social lifeline for new parents as well as a fertile ground for growing confident, enthusiastic readers - it’s the very first child in a child’s educational experience!

At HCLS, building early literacy is a strategic priority. From birth, children have about 1,800 days before they start school – how many of them will you spend at the library? At our six branches, you can find a progression of developmentally appropriate, literacy-rich experiences for children and their grownups:

Hatchlings: Baby on the Way is an interactive early literacy class for expectant parents. Learn more about supporting your little one’s development even before they are born through songs and fun activities. Everyone receives a FREE activities calendar and song sheet.

Hatchlings: New Baby and Me is an interactive four-week early literacy class series for parents/caregivers with newborns from birth to 6 months. Learn more about supporting your baby’s development through songs and activities together.

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

Make the library part of your life’s journey. And make sure the library is there for all in the future by supporting public libraries during this year’s National Library Week.

Monday, April 8: Right to Read Day is a National Day of Action in support of the right to read.

Tuesday, April 9: National Library Workers Day, a day for everyone to recognize the valuable contributions made by library staff.

Wednesday, April 10: National Library Outreach Day, a day dedicated to celebrating and promoting outreach, like the On the Road to Kindergarten van and the STEAM Machine.

Thursday, April 11: Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to urge elected officials to support libraries.

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE STATEMENT: Please see hclibrary.org/about-us/photo-video-and-audio-release.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Appropriate accommodations made at Howard County Library System (HCLS) sponsored events for individuals with special needs, if requested at least one week in advance.

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE STATEMENT: The content of HCLS publications, classes, and events does not necessarily reflect the views held by HCLS, nor does mention of companies or organizations imply endorsement.

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Learn Astronomy: Eclipses
Why do eclipses occur, when do they happen, and how can we predict their timing? Learn about and discuss the astronomical phenomenon of eclipses. Homeschoolers welcome. Younger siblings and parents/guardians welcome to attend with teen participants.

Thu Mar 7 7 pm Glenwood
Tue Mar 12 11 am Glenwood

Introduction to Robotics with Raspberry Pi
Ages 14-18 (high school). Register at bit.ly/gle_pie.ai
Curious about a career in engineering or computer science? Learn the basics of coding and robotics with Raspberry Pi.

Wed Mar 20 7 - 8:30 pm Glenwood

Life Skills: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
Ages 11+ & adults. Register at bit.ly/lifeskills_recycle
Learn the three R’s to help keep our planet healthy, and practice reusing by making a cool T-shirt bag made out of... you guessed it...an old shirt that avoided the landfill! In partnership with Howard County Recycling Division.

Thu Apr 13 6:30 - 7:30 pm Savage

Life Skills: Identifying Wild Edible Plants
Ages 14+ & adults. Register at bit.ly/gle_id_plants
Discuss the guidelines of safe and respectful foraging practices, basic plant morphology concepts to help with plant identification, and specific plants that beginner foragers can add to their repertoire. Does not address mushrooms or other fungi.

Thu Mar 16 6:30 - 8 pm Savage

HiTech Spring Break
All classes take place at Savage Branch from March 25 - 28 for middle and high school students.

Origami Engineering
10 - 11 am, Savage Studio
Get hands-on experience in the ancient art of paper folding. Use origami to create structures like solar panels, bridges, and packing materials. Look at tessellating polygons and how these amazing structures can be used by scientists and engineers.

Wonders of Chemical Reactions 1
10 - 11 am, Carver Lab
Explore chemistry in a fun and colorful environment. Conduct experiments that range from the physical and chemical properties of matter to Thermodynamics and Thermochemistry, and even Acid-Base Chemistry.

Acoustic Science
12 - 1 pm, Savage Studio
Learn about the science of acoustics as you explore the engineering of basic PA systems and small studio setups. Topics include sound, frequencies, dynamic microphones vs condenser microphones, and how to build a speaker/monitor.

STEM Heroes
12 - 1 pm, Carver Lab
Did you know that Mae Jemison made history as the first Black female astronaut? She is also an engineer, a physician, a professor, and an entrepreneur. Explore people throughout history and today who have contributed to the sciences.

Babysitting Entrepreneurship 101
Attention teens interested in babysitting! Earn a babysitting certificate from the University of Maryland Extension. Program while you learn about resumes, mock interviews, practice diapering, preparing activity kits, safety information, and more.

Thu, Wed, Thu Mar 26, 27, & 28
3 - 5 pm Glenwood

Teen Career Building Workshop Series
For ages 11-18. Registration required; register at bit.ly/49vnp3J
Discover pathways to future success! Explore career planning, resume development, internship acquisition, interviewing skills, business etiquette and learn about careers in agriculture. Taught by a University of Maryland Extension instructor.

Mon - Wed Mar 27, 28 & 29
3 - 6 pm Miller
Spring Break at the Library
by Brandon Bannister, Central Branch

If you're looking for fun ideas close to home, take a tour of all six HCLS branches:

- The DIY center at Elkridge Branch has great gardening, power cleaning, and baking tools.
- The popular Enchanted Garden at the Miller Branch attracts many visitors, people and pollinators, during the spring and summer months.
- Artwork at Central and Glenwood Branches will get you in the mood for the spring.
- If you want to challenge and examine your creative side, visit Glenwood's makerspace, where you can perform 3D print jobs, create items on the laser cutter engraver, and many other crafty activities.
- Discover the AV Lab at Savage Branch, where you can use our soundbooth and digital pianos. We teach hands-on STEAM classes for middle and high school students.

Spring Break Movies
- Toy Story (Rated G) Free snacks, while supplies last.
  - Mon, Mar 25 2 - 3:30 pm
  - Central
- Curious George (Rated G)
  - Mon, Mar 25 11 am - 12:30 pm
  - Glenwood
- The Super Mario Bros. Movie (Rated PG)
  - Sat, Mar 30 2 - 4 pm
  - Elkridge

Little Learners: Spring Into Science
- Ages 3-5 with adult. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Explore spring science themes through children's literature and hands-on activities.
  - Mon, Mar 25 10:15 - 11 am
  - Savage
  - Apr 1 10:15 - 11 am
  - Savage

STEAM Stations Family Edition
- Ages 3 & up with adult. Allow 30-45 minutes. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Explore stations with activities that stimulate and encourage children to explore and investigate.
  - Mon, Mar 25 11 am & 2 pm
  - Miller

Catapult Fun
- Ages 8-10. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Learn about catapults and how they work as you design, build, and test a catapult made from popsicle sticks and spoons.
  - Mon, Mar 25 2 - 2:45 pm
  - Elkridge

Colorama!
- All ages.
  - Drop in and have fun coloring. We provide the materials; you supply the imagination!
  - Tue, Mar 26 11 am - 1 pm
  - Miller

Animal Clues: Tracks & Scat
- Ages 6-9. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Have you ever seen some animal tracks or scat and wondered who left them? Learn how to identify animal tracks and scat using photos and models.
  - Tue, Mar 26 1 - 1:45 pm
  - Elkridge

Carle Collage
- Families. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Use the famous illustrator Eric Carle's technique to make collage artwork that looks like it came right out of The Very Hungry Caterpillar!
  - Wed, Mar 27 12 - 12:45 pm
  - Savage

Paint and Tell: The Art of Story Stones
- Ages 6-10. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Stretch your imagination, creativity, and storytelling skills by painting a set of story stones. What story do they tell? Share your story and listen to someone else's.
  - Wed, Mar 27 2 - 2:45 pm

Make & Trade Friendship Bracelets
- For ages 10+ & adults. Details at bit.ly/cent_friends
  - Drop-in and make Taylor Swift-inspired friendship bracelets. Trade bracelets at the workshop or later with friends and family.
  - Thu, Mar 28 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Boredom-Busting Board Game Fun!
- All ages; children under 8 with adult. Allow 30 min.
  - Drop in for some board game fun!
  - Thu, Mar 28 2 - 4 pm

Ukulele Spring Jam
- Ages 7 & up, with adult. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.
  - Let's jam with the ukulele! Bring your own or borrow one of ours. Other simple instruments provided if you just want to play and sing along.
  - Wed, Mar 27 2 - 3 pm

Detective Science
- For ages 8-10. Details at bit.ly/cent_friends
  - Attention all detectives: the library is in need of your help! Use your deductive skills to solve a mystery and learn how forensic scientists solve real crimes using evidence like fingerprints, chromatography, and more.
  - Thu, Mar 28 2 - 4:45 pm

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:
Visit hclibrary.org > classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.
Read About Women's History Month

by Emily Bell, Central Branch

Women's History was not always a month-long celebration. It started in 1980 as a week-long celebration. President Jimmy Carter offered these words as he issued his proclamation for the first Women's History Week celebration:

"Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

Each year a new theme is chosen by the National Women’s History Alliance, a non-profit organization who lobbied and advocated for Women’s History Month to be recognized across the United States. The 2024 theme for Women’s History Month is “Women who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.” Check out these books celebrating the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who advocated for Women’s History Month to be recognized.

For adults

Valiant Women: The Extraordinary American Servicewomen Who Helped Win World War II by Lena S. Andrews* (940.53082A) | 350,000 American women served during WWII, working as codebreakers, chemists, pigeon trainers, translators, and more. Learn about these unsung heroes and their previously untold stories.

The Women of NOW: How Feminists Built an Organization that Transformed America by Katherine Turk* (305.4902T) | Learn about the women behind the creation of the National Organization for Women, a group that has advocated for gender equality, reproductive rights, racial justice, and LGBTQIA+ rights since its formation in 1966.

For children

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré by Anika Dénise* (CHILDRENS B BELPRE D) | Learn about Pura, the first Puerto Rican librarian in New York City. She advocated for the Spanish-speaking community by offering bilingual story times and purchasing Spanish language books. (Also available in Spanish.)

Fall Down Seven Times, Stand Up Eight: Patsy Takemoto Mink and the Fight for Title IX by Toshiki Nakamura (CHILDRENS B MINK B) | Patsy Takemoto Mink was the first woman of color in Congress and was a huge proponent in passing Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs.

*available in digital formats

For teens

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Lynda Blackmon Lowery (TEEN 323.1196L) | Read the memoir of the incredible teen who marched for civil rights alongside Martin Luther King Jr. Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World by Pénélope Bagieu* (741.598) | This graphic novel focuses on some of history’s most impressive boundary-breaking women, like Mae Jemison, Nelly Bly, and Christine Jorgensen.

For the Love of the Irish

by Cherise Tasker, Central Branch

In literary fiction, every month should celebrate Irish Heritage. For 2024, explore the beauty that is the work of Claire Keegan. "Long short stories," as Keegan refers to them, are the ideal length for busy times and for reading again and again. Every word is perfect.

Keegan has joined the impressive lineage of Irish writers who construct characters of such depth, with language of such magic, that their work is beyond compare. So Late in the Day: Stories of Women and Men, Keegan’s most recent work to be published in the US, is a collection of three relationship stories.

In the first, a self-absorbed man’s engagement fails. In the second, a woman writer faces her creative process. In the third, a woman stepping out of her comfort zone walks into a hell-bound affair.

In Small Things Like These, the setting is 1980s rural Ireland during the Christmas season. The protagonist Bill Furlong, a thoughtful, hardworking supplier of coal and lumber, is grateful for his wife, his financially stable life in economically treacherous times, and his five daughters for whom he provides a loving home and a solid Catholic school education. Born out of wedlock, Bill yearns to know who his father was, although few people from his early life remain to shed light on his parentage. Bill cares about those around him, and as he tries to sleep each night, his mind is “going round in circles,” as his thoughts are “going over small things like these.” The narrative follows Bill as he discovers the exploitation of girls and young women at a local convent. Will Bill risk what he knows and what he has and stand against this oppression?

In Foster, the elementary school-aged Cait is sent to live with relatives who are virtual strangers to her. Because her parents do not have the means to raise their numerous children and her mother is pregnant again, Cait spends a summer filled with attention and love that she has not before experienced. “I am in a spot where I can neither be what I always am nor turn into what I could be.” Foster is the source material for The Quiet Girl, the first Irish language film to be shortlisted for an Oscar. Indulge in both and life will be richer for it.

READ MORE ABOUT IRISH HERITAGE

fiction nonfiction children & teen
Meet the Author: Leah Rachel Berkowitz
Families. 60 min. Registration required.
Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz shares her fun Purim story about Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants. Purim is a Jewish celebration and includes retelling the story with plays and skits, wearing costumes, and eating and drinking - especially Hamentashen, triangular cookies said to represent the hat, ears, or pockets of Haman, the main villain of the story.

This story humorously imagines what it might have been like for a queen to stand up for herself against a string of high-handed demands. In doing so, children learn the value of understanding the worth of their own needs and desires.

Berkowitz is a graduate of Brandeis University, spiritual leader of Congregation Kol Ami in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and faculty member of the Creative Writing Program at URJ Six Points Creative Arts Academy.

Receive a copy, with advanced registration, while supplies last. Additional titles available for purchase and signing.

In partnership with the Jewish Federation of Howard County and PJ Library in Howard County.

Sun Mar 3 2:30 - 3:30 pm Miller

**Creating Graphic Novels with Author Ira Marcks**
Ages 10-17.
Join award-winning graphic novelist, Ira Marcks to learn how he plans, writes, and draws a long form comic story by engaging hands-on using the three essential elements of storytelling - characters, setting, and theme. Followed by book sales and signing.

Wed Apr 3 5 - 6 pm Central

**more for kids**

**DEAR: Dogs Educating and Assisting Readers**
Ages 5-10; allow 20 min. Parent/guardian must sign permission slip or have one on file prior to participating.

Tickets and books available 15 minutes before class.

Bring a book or borrow one of ours. Read to Fidos for Freedom's therapy dogs in a relaxing and encouraging environment while increasing oral reading skills and self-confidence.

Tue Mar 5 6:30 - 7:30 pm Central

**Little Learners Storybook Friends**
Ages 2-5 with adult; 30 minutes. Ticket required; available at the children's desk 15 minutes before class.

Fun stories, songs, and activities for preschoolers that spark curiosity and support learning.

Fridays 11 am East Columbia

**Curious George Playgroup with Healthy Little Cooks / Grupo de Juego de Jorge el Curioso con Healthy Little Cooks**
Ages 3-5 with adult; 60 min. Registration required.

In the Healthy Little Cooks curious chef cooking playgroup, create a Curious George animal rice cake, decorate a paper chef's hat and hear a Curious George book. Kids have fun cooking with their parents and/or grandparents, while learning about colors and exploring new shapes. Parents and/or grandparents required to attend. *Class taught in English & Spanish

Únase al grupo de juego del chef curioso Healthy Little Cooks. Crearás un pastel de arroz con animales de Jorge el Curioso, decorarás tu propio gorro de chef en papel y escucharás un libro de Jorge el Curioso. Los niños se divertirán cocinando con sus padres y/o abuelos, aprendiendo sobre colores y explorando nuevas formas. Se requiere la asistencia de padres y/o abuelos. *Clase impartida en inglés y en español.

Wed Apr 3 10:30 - 11:30 am Elkridge

**Email Newsletters**

Email Newsletters

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.
The Butler Did It! White House Memories
For adults. Register at bit.ly/butlermemories
Former White House butler Alan DevValerio gives us the inside details about the First Families since the Roosevelt administration, and his experiences with the people who worked with them.
Sat  Mar 2 1 - 2 pm  Miller

History Relived: 75th Anniversary of NATO
For adults. Register at bit.ly/tillman_hCl
On April 4, 1949, the United States and eleven other countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty, creating NATO. The treaty’s core provision was Article 5, which today commits NATO’s member states to collective defense. Its formation wasn’t on anyone’s bingo card when World War II ended. Join an informal discussion of the how and why it was originally formed and the impact it has had through current events.
Tue  Apr 9 11 am - 12 pm  Glenwood

Freighters, Prisoners, and Britain’s Black Holes: Maritime POWs in the American Revolution
For adults. Register at bit.ly/bell_maritimepow
Britain’s Royal Navy took 11,000 American sailors captive during the Revolutionary War. They spent months or years in prisons in England, Ireland, and Scotland—held indefinitely under the terms of a 1777 law that designated them as pirates and traitors, not as official prisoners of war. Dr. Richard Bell reconstructs their experiences and delves into this fascinating historical event.
Wed  Apr 10 7 - 8 pm  Miller

Historical Fiction as a Lens for the Future & Good Endeavor Book Discussion
For adults. Register at bit.ly/tillman_gle
Award-winning author Ned Tillman discusses his book, Good Endeavor. He talks about the value of fiction and nonfiction for telling the stories of our past and how they can be used to get a sense of how life really was over the centuries. Attend one or both sessions!
Wed  Apr 24 6:30 - 8 pm  Glenwood

The Real “Fake News”: Recognizing Misinformation
For adults. Register at bit.ly/hcl_real_news
Deepfakes, AI-generated content, photos taken out of context, impostor news sites—opportunities abound for misinformation to be created and shared in the digital age. How can we combat the harm that can arise from this? Recognizing misinformation is a good first step. Learn about the different forms misinformation can take, as well as strategies for evaluating information for authenticity and accuracy.
Thu  Mar 7 7 - 8:30 pm  Central & online (hybrid)

Tips for Being News Savvy Online
For adults. Register at bit.ly/hcls_savvy
Sharing the news with others? In the digital age, anyone can publish anything on the internet, even if it’s completely false. Technology has made it easier to create and spread misinformation. Discuss tools to evaluate news sources and review helpful fact-checking sites, because it’s important to read and check your sources before sharing.
Mon  Apr 29 5 - 6 pm  Savage

Pets on Wheels
For all ages. Drop-in
Therapy dog(s) from Pets on Wheels stop by East Columbia Branch for friendly visits with customers.
Sat  Mar 9 1 - 2 pm  East Columbia

All About Coffee and Tea
For adults. Register at bit.ly/hcstea
Learn about your favorite beverages from brewing to health benefits. In partnership with Giant Food.
Tue  Mar 19 7 - 8 pm  Central

Cookbook Corner
For adults. Register at bit.ly/eco_cookbookcorner
For Women’s History Month, we celebrate Julia Child. Borrow any Julia Child cookbook from the library, cook some recipes, and have a culinary discussion.
Wed  Mar 20 7 - 8 pm  East Columbia

The UnBook Reading Group
Connect with a community of readers without the stress of assigned reading! Bring the book of your choice and read silently in a comfy spot at Backwater Books. Then, wrap up the evening by sharing something interesting about what you read in an open literature-related discussion. No purchase required to participate.
Wednesdays: Mar 20 & Apr 17 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Backwater Books, Main Street, Ellicott City

The Story of Plastic Film and Discussion
For adults. Register at bit.ly/gle_plastic
Watch the documentary The Story of Plastic (90 minutes), a detailed look into the environmental damage and human rights abuses that occur throughout the life cycle of plastic. What can companies, countries, and people do to fix the issues? A 30-minute discussion follows the screening, with Stephanie Dignan.
Sat  Apr 6 3 - 5 pm  Glennwood

Random Crafts of Kindness
For adults. Register at bit.ly/rook
Do you like learning to make new things, but don’t have the space to keep them? Do you enjoy giving gifts and performing acts of kindness for your fellow community members? Spend some relaxing time making art or crafting with your neighbors, and share your creations in random acts of kindness.
Sat  Apr 6 3 - 4 pm  Savage

How to Make a DIY Cat Tree
For adults. Register at bit.ly/lcok
Learn the basic carpentry techniques and design skills to build your own cat tree. We discuss the new and re-purposed materials that can be used. Learn through demonstration and participation about the tools you can borrow from the DIY Center.
Sat  Apr 20 11 am - 1 pm  Elkridge
In the Garden at Miller
Check out the full schedule of upcoming gardening classes at HCLS Miller Branch here: bit.ly/garden_at_miller

Enchanted Garden Youth Corps
Ages 9-13. Registration required.
Experience the different growing seasons in the garden. Learn how to seed, plant, harvest, and tend to vegetables and flowers.
Wednesdays Apr 17, May 15, Jun 26 5 pm

F.I.G.S. aka Friends in the Garden
Ages 4-6. Registration required, plan to attend all sessions.
Cultivate learning by working together on a garden project.
Make new friends and learn about the animal friends that help plants grow.
Thursdays Apr 11, 18, 25 2 pm

Growing Microgreens
For adults. Register at bit.ly/microgreens_mil
Learn how to grow nutrient-dense microgreens at home.
Tue Mar 12 7 - 8 pm

DIY Raised Garden Beds
For adults. Register at bit.ly/diy_mil
Learn and participate in the construction of a raised garden bed. Learn the building techniques and materials needed (all available to borrow from the DIY Center at the Elkridge Branch) and tips for starting your Spring planting!
Sat Mar 16 11 am - 12:30 pm

Howard County Parks: Beyond Your Backyard
For adults. Register at bit.ly/elk_beyond.
Answer the call of the wild! Join a knowledgeable Park Ranger in an exciting exploration of the outdoor opportunities and natural beauty of Howard County Parks. Captivating forests, serene meadows, and energetic waterways offer the perfect backdrop for a variety of activities. Learn about hiking, biking, fishing, picnicking, and more. Get insider tips on the best trails, family-friendly activities, and park safety.
Thu Mar 28 7 - 8 pm Elkridge

Enchanted Garden Earth Day Celebration
All ages. Drop in.
Celebrate Earth Day by exploring stations throughout the Enchanted Garden. Fun and learning for all ages!
Sat Apr 20 1 - 3 pm

Deterring Deer
For adults.
Learn the eating habits of deer, including trees, shrubs and flowers they like to eat and which they tend to avoid (if hungry enough they eat anything). Also consider types of deterrents such as fences and repellents.
Tue Mar 26 7 - 8 pm

Compost Demonstration & Ask a Master Gardener
Regular sessions begin Apr 6. Visit the calendar at hclibrary.org for details.

Save the Date: Growing an Edible Landscape
Join authors Gary Pilarcik and Dr. Chiara D’Amore to discuss their new collaborative book, “Growing an Edible Landscape: How to Transform Your Outdoor Space into a Food Garden.”
Wed May 1 7pm

Do you have pets?
I have a sweet, yet fierce cat named Peanut Butter. He was a stray who adopted me a couple years ago. Peanut will go on walks with me (unleashed) around my neighborhood. We get the best reactions from my neighbors.

Favorite time of year?
I appreciate that we live in an area where we can experience all the seasons. Spring is my favorite season because it is full of possibilities. I love to watch the ground wake up and to see the landscape transform from beige and brown to green and lush.

Favorite smell?
The smell of bread baking is one of my absolute favorites. There is nothing quite as satisfying as a warm piece of sourdough with melted butter and flakey crust.

What excites you the most about your work and/or HCLS as a whole?
I am an avid farmers market shopper and it is easy to connect and build relationships and share common goals. I continue to help farms and food system nonprofits with capacity building efforts. I hope to be a bridge between community advocates, and leaders who inspire me daily.

How are you involved in the community?
I have been involved with the local farming community for years. I started a vegetable farm in Montgomery County, called Common Root Farm where I offered a CSA program (community supported agriculture) and sold at weekly farmers markets. Farms and gardens are spaces where it is easy to connect and build relationships and share common goals. I am an avid farmers market shopper and continue to help farms and food system nonprofits with capacity building efforts. I hope to be a bridge between our local agricultural system and the library community.

What’s an unusual fact about you?
In my role as Enchanted Garden Instructor, I can combine my love for community engagement and gardening. One of the best parts about working with HCLS is being surrounded by a diverse team of talented colleagues, community advocates, and leaders who inspire me daily.

How long have you been with HCLS?
7 months

What are your passions?
My first job out of college was as an archaeological field technician. I would find archaeological sites, uncover, and document them. It was fun to tell a story through found objects and historical records. I especially enjoyed discovering prehistoric artifacts like archaic projectile points (commonly known as arrowheads) and other stone tools carved from chert or jasper that were thousands of years old!
April is National Poetry Month

Craft Works: Blackout Poetry
Let your creativity shine in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Every month learn about different art media and explore new techniques.
Thu Apr 11 2 - 3:30 pm Central
Tue Apr 16 7 - 8:30 pm Central

Poetry Zine Workshop
For adults. Register at bit.ly/3piozines.
Make your own poetry zine to celebrate National Poetry Month. Zines, or ‘zines (pronounced “zeens”), are handmade do-it-yourself magazines that can be about any topic and are often distributed by making photocopies. Bring your own poem or pick from a selection before following a demonstration on how to make a zine to create.
Sat Apr 27 1 - 2:30 pm Savage

MORE POETRY SELECTIONS

fiction
nonfiction
children &
teen

Ancient History, Modern Tradition

by Sahana Callahan, Savage Branch

I’m not a high school English teacher, so I rarely have an audience that will listen to me lecture about poetic tradition, but April is National Poetry Month, so there’s no better time to try. What if you pick up a book of poetry?

“Which one?” you ask me, as I thought you might.

Great question. Did you know April also happens to be National Arab American Heritage Month?

One of the earliest forms of Arabic literature was poetry, but the oral tradition of Arabic poetry extends far beyond that. Flow, expression, and verbiage are singular in Arabic and the language was chosen by UNESCO as “the language of Poetry and Arts.” It only feels appropriate, then, to celebrate National Arab American Heritage Month alongside National Poetry Month. To highlight the perfect modern continuation of the ancient history, here are some Arab and Arab American poets to get you started:

Naomi Shihab Nye
is the first Arab American Young People’s Poet Laureate and has several teen and YA books in our collection.

The Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology is deeply evocative, tying together the heritage mentioned above and making it accessible in the West, blending established poets and emerging voices.

Mahmoud Darwish is a prolific author, word-recognized for his lyrical work and vivid imagery.

Charif Shanahan wrote Trace Evidence about intersectional Arab American themes, a sense of place, queerness, and intimacy with oneself and one’s heritage.

Written by a wide variety of authors, This Is Not a Border: Reportage & Reflection from the Palestine Festival of Literature contains poems and essays reflected on PalFest and the power of culture.

Salim Barakat’s Come, Take a Gentle Stab is a compilation of Barakat’s most lauded work, and is translated to English from Arabic, drawing attention to the power of testing the limits of language.

Finally, one of the most celebrated Arab American authors, Etel Adnan’s work, Sea and Fog, cannot be omitted from this list; it’s a tour de force about individualism, place, and interconnectedness.

Check out the works above from your closest branch or online, and try poetry this month – there’s a reason it’s got such an ancient history, and it still hasn’t gone away.

READ MORE ABOUT ARAB HERITAGE

fiction
nonfiction
children &
teen

CELEBRATE national poetry month
Uncover the stories behind the world’s most famous poems.
Read full text poems and their origins in Gale Literature: LitFinder.

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Or, use your HCLS library card (available at branches or register via hclibrary.org).

1. Go to hclibrary.org. Search the site for Brainfuse.
2. Select Brainfuse HelpNow.
3. Enter your A+ account or library card number on the Remote Patron Authentication screen.
4. Click “My Account!” to create a Brainfuse account to track practice test scores, submit assignments to the writing lab, and use the app.
5. Select the resource you need.

Download the free Brainfuse HelpNow mobile app for fast access to select services, including live tutoring. Full range of services available on the web version.

Did you know?

Brainfuse is provided by HCPS, HCLS and the Friends and Foundation of HCLS.

Online homework help

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

thank you!

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In Memory of Danny Stultz:
Robert D. and Marian Chichester,
Karen Kish, Marlene McCauley,
Glenn and Marilyn Pratt

IN-KIND
Gamers-Corps Game Store

In Howard County, history is all around us. As part of Women’s History Month, Howard County offers the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of some impressive figures in our own backyard, such as Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps, a nationally recognized innovator in advancing women’s education as headmistress at the Patapsco Female Institute atop Mount Misery. Harriet Tubman, the legendary Underground Railroad Conductor’s life and legacy are honored at the new Harriet Tubman Cultural Center. We are surrounded by the stories of diverse people who have - and continue to - contribute to the traditions, beliefs, and spirit that shape our community and help us grow together.

Did you know that our library system has a Historical Center? The Miller Branch and Historical Center in Ellicott City houses the Howard County Historical Society Archives and Research Center. Researchers, students, and families can access documents and artifacts from before our county existed to this week’s headlines. You can learn about historic sites or the founding of your neighborhood, explore a famous figure or your own roots, review contemporary accounts of local events both large and small, and gain a deeper understanding of who and what brought us to where we are and where we want to go.

As a historian, myself, and - in full disclosure - the current President of the Historical Society, I could not be prouder of this strong partnership between the Howard County Library System and the Society in providing access to additional resources that preserve and share our rich and diverse history.

Become a Friend and support the Library’s work engaging the community in exploration of who we were, are, and hope to be.

~ Ellen Flynn Giles, Friends & Foundation of HCLS Board Member

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