Taste the Tradition: online with Jet Tila

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Summer is just around the corner, and we’re gearing up for spectacular adventures!

On May 1, Nathan Davis and Wayne Davis discuss their book, Hidden History of Howard County, sharing stories of our county’s rich and fascinating past. People interested in gardening and sustainability won’t want to miss Dr. Chiara D’Amore and Gary Pilarich talk about their book, Growing an Edible Landscape: How to Transform Your Outdoor Space into a Food Garden, on May 1 (p. 15).

Space enthusiasts and civil rights activities will find commonality at the Maryland debut of The Artist and the Astronaut film on May 5 (p. 4). On May 11, authors Charlene Marie Muhammad and Dr. Marilyn Peppers-Citizen explore Black culture and yoga philosophy in their book, Yoga in the Black Community. We celebrate Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage Month as celebrity chef Jet Tila hosts an online cooking and conversation event on May 21 (p. 3).

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, a vitally important topic for all ages, but especially our community’s youth. As finals begin, branches offer a variety of stress-reducing opportunities, including relaxing with certified therapy dogs (p. 6).

Starting in June, take a Summer Reading Adventure with us. Follow your interests and have fun with the summer reading game that’s right for you. Be creative and choose your own adventure as you visit the library and go to all sorts of new and favorite places - in person or in your imagination. You can even take the library with you when you borrow Flat Booker and snap some photos at the pool, on a trip, in your backyard, or wherever you go this summer.

And for adults, our wildly popular summer reading journals are back this year. Pick up yours at any of our six branches beginning June 1!

Finally, we are looking for all the artists in our community. Through May 31, if anyone is interested in participating in our annual bookmark art contest, submit your design for a set of new library cards.

For a variety of stress-reducing opportunities, including relaxing with certified therapy dogs (p. 6).

Taste the Tradition: Exploring Asian Cuisine with Jet Tila

To receive the Zoom link, register at bit.ly/online_tila.

Celebrate API Heritage Month with an unforgettable evening featuring celebrity chef Jet Tila. He shares his personal story, culinary insights, and favorite recipes. From traditional flavors to modern twists, immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Asian cuisine and culture.

A bestselling author, Tila has been nominated for Emmy and James Beard awards. He grew up in the first family of Thai food, then attended both French and Japanese culinary school. A born educator and storyteller, he was appointed as the inaugural Culinary Ambassador of Thai cuisine by the Royal Thai Consulate, the first-ever chef to represent his country’s culture and cuisine.

He appears as a host, co-host, judge, and competitor on many Food Network shows, such as Tournament of Champions, Iron Chef America, Cutthroat Kitchen, Chopped, Beat Bobby Flay, and Guy’s Grocery Games. He also hosts six culinary Guinness World Records.

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Celebrate API Heritage Month

By Tatiana Callahan, Savage Branch

As the days get even longer, and late spring graces us with sunshine and the promise of summer, celebrating the vibrant, colorful nature of Asian American culture aligns with the spirit of the season. At the library, we love to explore and learn through stories, whether they come to us in book form or from community knowledge, through crafts, cooking, and artwork. Take an adventure through a story to explore Asian American and Pacific Island cultures with us.

To escape in a book, join one of our many book discussion groups around the system. If book discussion groups are your thing, we’ll be reading across Asia this month:

Between the Lines, hosted at Brewing Good in the Savage Mill, reads and discusses Parini Shroff’s The Bandit Queens, and celebrating India on May 17.

The Asian American Literature Book Club reads The Artist and the Astronaut, which explores the time around the Chinese Exclusion Act.

In Other Worlds, a science fiction book club meets on May 27, in person and online, to talk about Iron Widow by Xiran Jay Zhao, a futuristic novel that has close ties to East Asian history.

If anime or manga suits you, make sure to check out our anime clubs at the Savage Branch. The Advanced Anime Association for adults meets on May 2, and Anime & Game Hangout for teens meets on May 14 and 21.

Drop in and make a craft on May 14 at the Miller Branch, inspired by API art work. 

If you’re a foodie and want to experience the world through food, check out the first of our potluck style nonfiction international grocery store tours. Many thanks to our first foodie tour inspiration: HCL’s very own Jet Tila. For the past three years, the renowned chef has thrilled us with his travels through the food of Asia. With his novel Taste the Tradition: Exploring Asian Cuisine with Jet Tila, he takes us on a tour through a variety of Asian cuisines and cultures.

As a young boy, Jet Tila watched his mother and grandmother prepare delicious Thai dishes at their home. He was always an avid learner, eager to explore and understand the world around him. As he grew older, Jet Tila’s curiosity and love for food only intensified, and he began to travel extensively throughout Asia, sampling and learning about the diverse and fascinating cuisines that he encountered.

Jet Tila has a background in education and storytelling, which is evident in his approach to sharing his culinary knowledge. In Taste the Tradition, he invites readers to join him on a journey through the vibrant and diverse world of Asian cuisine. The book is divided into chapters, each focusing on a different country’s cuisine. Within each chapter, Jet Tila provides insights into the history, culture, and traditions that have shaped the unique flavors and ingredients of each region.

As you read along, Jet Tila takes you on a culinary adventure, sharing recipes, stories, and insights from his travels. Whether you’re a seasoned chef or a culinary novice, Jet Tila’s approachable and engaging style makes it easy to learn and enjoy. His enthusiasm for food is infectious, and he imparts his knowledge in a way that is both educational and mouthwatering.

Through Jet Tila’s culinary explorations, he also offers valuable lessons in cultural sensitivity and respect. In an age where cultural appropriation is a growing concern, Jet Tila’s approach is one of deep respect and understanding. He emphasizes the importance of learning from and respecting the cultures that have shaped the dishes he shares.

In addition to the recipes and insights, Taste the Tradition also includes maps, illustrations, and photographs, providing visual glimpses into the culinary world Jet Tila explores. The book is a feast for the eyes as well as the palate.

Jet Tila’s personal story is also intertwined throughout the book. He shares stories of his childhood in Thailand, his journey to the United States, and his experiences in the culinary world. His journey is a testament to the power of food to bring people together, regardless of their backgrounds.

Jet Tila’s passion for food and storytelling is evident in every page of Taste the Tradition. Whether you’re a fan of Asian cuisine or simply interested in exploring its rich diversity, this book offers a unique and captivating window into the world of Asian food. Enjoy your culinary journey!
The Maryland Film Premiere: The Artist & The Astronaut

Spend an unforgettable afternoon at the Maryland premiere of the award-winning film, The Artist & The Astronaut. This cinematic journey delves into the remarkable love story between artist Pat Muncie, a civil rights activist, and Apollo astronaut Jerry Carr.

Witness their captivating tale unfold against the backdrop of some of humanity’s most historic moments. Filled with never-before-seen footage of early space exploration and featuring interviews with key figures from that era, this film chronicles the vastly different paths of Pat and Jerry as they navigate uncertain times, ultimately coming together to render some of America’s most enduring art. The Artist & The Astronaut is a testament to the power of curiosity, perseverance, and empathy as agents of change and love.

After the screening, delve deeper into the film’s creation through a Q&A session with the writer and director, Bill Muench. Explore the compelling backstory behind the documentary’s creation, catalyzed by the encouragement of Bill’s wife. Her inspiration ignited his passion to embark on this remarkable endeavor.

Beginning from humble origins with no plan or budget, Bill Muench, a full-time teacher and basketball coach, undertook a six-year odyssey spanning nine states and two continents. His determination to share the untold story of a local astronaut Jerry Carr.

What was your favorite part of filming/ the whole process?

Getting to meet and interview amazing people who had lived fascinating lives—they inspired me to be a better filmmaker as I went on because they deserved to have their story captured in a professional way.

How did you come up with this idea? Did you have a connection with these people? What was your inspiration?

I went to Arkansas with my wife to celebrate Pat’s 90th birthday in 2016... I have been friends with Jerry, the astronaut, and Pat, the artist, since the moved to Manchester, VT in 2007... I knew many of their stories. When we got on the plane to come back to Vermont I said to my wife, “somebody should make a documentary about these two...” She said, “you should do it,” and that is how I got the inspiration to do the film.

Are you proud of how the documentary came out?

When I started working on the documentary, I did it for my own enjoyment—I never dreamed in a million years that it would win awards and I would be able to travel the country and screen the film. It is not about what I did but the story that the film captures. This was the last interview for many of the participants of this film. I am especially proud of the musical score by Todd Habin...83 different music drops – all of them original.

How (Not) To Talk To People

Feeling anxious or dread about discussing politics with coworkers, friends, or family members who hold different viewpoints than you?

Learn effective strategies for how to better engage with people across social, political, and ideological divides.

Discuss how to practice empathy and open-mindedness with the goal of finding common ground even amidst interpersonal differences.

Sat May 4 12:30 - 2 pm Savage

Craft Works: Spring Paper Flowers

Let your creativity shine in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Join us every month to learn about different art media and explore new techniques. This month’s featured project is Paper Flowers.

Thur May 9 2 - 3:30 pm Central

Knot Just Knitters

Beginners welcome! Work on your stitching, knitting, or crocheting projects while chatting and sharing ideas. Find inspiration as you trade tips, tricks, and techniques with other crafting enthusiasts. All crafters welcome.

Sun May 5 2 - 4:15 pm Miller

Adults. Register at bit.ly/artist_astronaut

Attend the Maryland premiere of the award-winning film and presentation with Director Bill Muench.

Maryland Film Premiere: The Artist & The Astronaut

Adults. Register at bit.ly/artist_astronaut

Sun May 5 2 - 4:15 pm Miller

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With Director Bill Muench

How did you manage your time being a teacher and also filming? Not very well... Ha ha. I never missed a day of school, even though I had to travel to many different states and even make a trip to England. I was really excited to share the process of documentary filmmaking with my students during my last six years of teaching high school.

With Director Bill Muench

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Library Card Design Contest

Theme: The library is your place to Learn, Connect, and Grow.

Age groups: Grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, Middle School, High School, and Adults (18+)

Entries due May 31.

Entries available in branches and online.

Winners notified in early September.

Annual Bookmark Art Contest

June 1 - July 31

Age groups: Grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, Middle School & High School

New bookmarks available in fall.

Winners notified in early September.

Details available hclibrary.org starting June 1.
Finding Community and Connection

by Emily Bell, Central Branch

These days, it seems more difficult than ever to find your community and make genuine connections. Over the past four years, the pandemic has re-shaped our lives. The way that we live, communicate, and connect has changed. These rapid changes led U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy to issue an advisory on the “epidemic of loneliness and isolation” in 2023.

Dr. Murthy remarked, “We’re seeing more forces that take us away from one another and fewer of the forces that used to bring us together.” Adjusting to this new social landscape is tough, especially for older Americans. It can be even more daunting without the built-in social opportunities found at work and school.

Read the U.S. Surgeon General’s advisory on social connection at www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/priorities/connection.

Part of the framework to address the loneliness epidemic calls for a strengthening of social infrastructure, which includes public libraries and senior centers. These types of physical community spaces, known as “third places,” are any social space separate from your home (first place) or work (second place).

Howard County Library System’s classes and events are a great way to connect and find a community. Here’s a sampling of some of our ongoing offerings:

If you love to read, try The Unbook Reading Group. Meeting monthly at Backwater Books in Old Ellicott City, it offers an opportunity for readers to connect and chat without the pressure of assigned reading.

Get crafty with a range of creative classes for adults at various HCLS branches. Connect and make a new craft in a supportive, friendly environment with Craft Works. Pins and Needles meets every Thursday, alternating between HCLS Central and Miller Branches. Converse with other adults as you work on your knitting, crochet, embroidery, or sewing project.

Give Mah Jongg a try at HCLS Miller Branch. Mah Jongg Meet Up occurs twice a month, welcoming players of all experience levels. Looking to stay active? Start your Mondays off on the right foot Walking with East Columbia Branch and 50+ Center.

You can find and register for even more classes and events for adults at hclibrary.org. Look for the Classes & Events tab and enter the class name into the search bar.

Craft Works @ Central Branch
Dates and times vary between one Tuesday evening and one Thursday afternoon every month.

Walking with East Columbia & 50+ Center Mondays; 9:30 - 10:30 am

Pins & Needles Every Thursday; 10 am - 12 pm 1st and 3rd Thursdays @ Central 2nd and 4th & 5th Thursdays @ Miller

UnBook Reading Group @ Backwater Books Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm May 15, Jun 12

Mah Jongg Meetup @ Miller 2nd and 4th or 5th Tuesday evenings; 6:30 - 8 pm

Bingo Social B-1-N-G-O! Get sociable and win prizes. Compete and converse with other bingo fans.

Thu May 16 2 - 4 pm Glenwood
Thu Jun 27 2 - 4 pm East Columbia
**SUMMER READING ADVENTURES FOR TEENS**  
Ages 11-18

**raffles**


Earn Tickets and Win Prizes!

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**HiTech**

Summer is coming and so are HiTech summer classes! Join HiTech for seven fun-filled weeks of interactive and project-based STEAM classes.

- Dive deep into Seaperch Robotic submersibles and other Robotic Projects
- Solve problems for engineering projects
- Launch aerospace and aero science projects
- Get creative with laser cutting projects, painting, illustrating, and printing in 3D
- Get scientific while learning about chemical reactions, exploring biology, anatomy, and zoology
- Practice for the SAT, ACT
- Program with JavaScript, Python, Arduino

June 24 - August 10: Classes happen at East Columbia, Elkridge, and Savage Branches from 9 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday. Visit hclibrary.org/new-a-main/hitech (or scan QR Code) to register for classes and learn more about the STEAM Carnival.

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**Teen LIVE!**

Designed by and for middle and high school students!

Have fun with friends - it's a relaxed vibe with pizza and snacks, DJ, and activity stations, video and party games.

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>May 14</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jun 7</td>
<td>1 - 4 pm</td>
<td>East Columbia</td>
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**June 1 to August 31**

Stop by a library branch for a booklet of 10 raffle tickets. Submit a raffle ticket each time you finish one of the listed summer reading adventures.

Place your filled out ticket in a raffle box at any library branch, for gift cards to local retailers and Amazon. Each branch has different options, so visit them all!

When you complete 10 adventures (yellow ticket), you receive a prize of a multi-colored pen and be entered into the grand prize drawing for $150 gift card to the Mall in Columbia.

hclibrary.org/summer

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**AV Lab @ Savage Branch**

Teens. Drop in.

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.

Multiple dates: Find the full reschedule at bit.ly/sav_av_lab.

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

Follow us:
Summer Reading Adventures 2024

by Jean Boone, Central Branch

It’s summer, hooray! So much free time!

IT’S SUMMER, OH, NO! SO MUCH FREE TIME!

What will you do with the kids this summer? Check out the library’s summer reading program and join in the ADVENTURE! It’s FREE, it’s for everyone.

So what’s in it for you?

FUN! Borrow music, dance and sing! Borrow puppets and put on a show. Take home the Gingerbread Man literacy activity kit and build a boat that floats. Get a book of jokes to share. Take our Summer Reading Mascot on a journey as Flat Booker.

Boredom Busters. Try some activity ideas from the summer reading game board at home, at the library, or in your neighborhood. Party at our branch Summer Reading Celebrations (see p. 11) scattered throughout the summer. You may discover safari surprises, mythological creatures, carnival games, and more. The one thing that you won’t find is boredom!

STRUCTURE and GOALS. Instead of school routines, use your game board as a daily brain-builder. Make a plan to read together every day and complete a space on the game board. Visit the library often — where your child can collect a combination of activities and reading.

A (SECRET) BOOST TO SCHOOL SKILLS. Did you know? Reading, singing, talking, writing, and playing all summer helps reduce “summer slide,” so your kids are ready for the transition to a new grade in August.

AIR CONDITIONED COMFORT. On the hottest days of summer, you can find cool spaces and even cooler events at HCLS’ six branches. Crafts, STEAM activities, games, book clubs, movies — it’s all happening at your library.

Mother’s Day Laser Cut Pendants
For ages 8+ and their adults. Register at bit.ly/laser-pendants
Learn how to use the laser cutter/engraver in the Glenwood Makerspace. Create your own pendant or keychain for Mom using a drawing you make in class. All materials provided.

Wed May 1 6 – 8 pm Glenwood
Hatchlings: New Baby and Me
Infants birth-6 months with adult. Registration required, one per household. Attending all sessions is encouraged, but not required. Register at bit.ly/hcls-hatchlings
Welcome home, baby! Hatchlings: New Baby and Me is an interactive four-week early literacy class series for parents/caregivers with newborns from birth - 6 months. Learn more about supporting your baby’s development through fun songs and activities together.

FREE family take-home kit includes a book, activities calendar, and song booklet for attendees. Bring a baby blanket for floor / tummy time.

Wednesdays May 1, 8, 15, 22
3:30 – 7:30 pm East Columbia

Read with a Ranger
Ages 2-10. Ticket required. Ticket available 15 minutes before class begins.

Explore the natural world through stories and activities. Learn how to spot the signs of wild animals and see their tracks up close, or silently glide into the world of owls and make a craft.

Thur May 30 3 - 3:45 pm Elkridge

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:
Visit hclibrary.org > classes & events, then use the filters to narrow your search.
Savor Summer Reading
by Cherise Tasker, Central Branch

Opinions on the best summer reading selections abound. Some readers look forward to extended spans of time to sink into those longer books. Anticipating many hours reading epic novels or multi-volumed biographies, they embrace the joy of following multiple characters or complex historical chronologies uninterrupted. On the opposite side of the spectrum are readers who want their vacation books to be as light as warm-weather clothing or as intoxicating as a margarita. Nothing too serious, please; they want stress-free romance, memoir, and mystery.

The HCLS year-round Adult Reading Challenge journal speaks to everyone. Any time of year, every genre, you can pick a challenge category to enjoy. There are book recommendations, but selections from your “to-be-read” pile are perfect too. All genres are welcome, creating the ideal opportunity to try something new, be it poetry, self-help, science fiction, fantasy, graphic novel, or thriller, to name just a few.

This summer, explore the new 2024-2025 challenges and journal prompts. For example, if Read a Book Set in a Library appeals, check out the historical fiction of The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis, Parallel stories unspool of a New York public librarian in 1993 and her grandmother, the wife of the NYPL superintendent, in 1913, as both women aspire to grow professionally and personally. As a delightful added twist, the 1913 family lives in the library. If magical fiction sounds just right, The Midnight Library by Matt Haig imagines a library where every book offers the protagonist a different life. Would she have been more fulfilled as a sports star, a musician, or a parent? For a nonfiction page-turner, pick up Susan Orlean’s The Library Book about the devastating 1986 Los Angeles Central Library fire. The arson investigation reads like a good mystery, and librarian interviews delve into the current role of libraries in society.

To participate in the Adult Summer Reading Adventure, complete any three of the challenges or read three books between June 1 and August 31, 2024. Topics include Explore the American West; Visit a Galaxy Far, Far Away; Get Lost in a Translation; and Reimagined Reading. Finishers receive a completion prize and entry into grand prize drawings.

Adult Summer Reading Showcase
For adult. Register at bit.ly/summer_showcase_24
Looking for book recommendations to read this summer? Get suggestions for titles to read, explore the Adult Summer Reading 2024 list, discover how to participate in the summer reading competition, and learn about upcoming events.

Tue   Jun 4  7 pm  online

World Adventures Summer Book Discussions: Spirit Run by Noé Álvarez

This summer, read and discuss books that celebrate journeys of discovery around the world. In June, we discuss Spirit Run: A 6000-Mile Marathon Through North America’s Stolen Land by Noé Álvarez.

Mon   Jun 17  7 – 8 pm  Elkridge

Rainbow and Pronoun Buttons
Adults. Drop in.
Celebrate LGBT+ Pride Month by creating your own rainbow or pronoun buttons to wear or share, and learn more about the history behind some of the flags!
Sat   Jun 8  1 - 3 pm  Savage

Stick to Being You: Creating Pride Stickers with the Cricut
Teens and adults. Register at bit.ly/b_u_stickers
Learn how to create custom stickers with the Cricut Maker. All supplies provided.
Wed   Jun 16  6 - 8 pm  Glenwood

For Pride Month
Makeup is for Everyone: Pride-Inspired Graphic Eyeliner
Adults. Register at bit.ly/pride_eyeliner
Learn how to use water-activated eyeliner to create bold makeup looks, including designs inspired by the Pride flag of your choosing. Open to adults looking to explore their gender expression in a safe space through the use of makeup. Materials provided. Contact with allergens may occur.
Tue   Jun 18  7 - 8 pm  Central

Random Crafts of Kindness
Adults. Register at bit.ly/rcok
Participate in some Random Crafts of Kindness! Learn about a craft, make one for yourself, and make some spares to give away to other community members.
May: Crepe Paper Blooms
Sat   May 4  3 - 4 pm  Savage
June: Rainbow Bracelets to Celebrate Pride Month!
Sat   Jun 4  3 - 4 pm  Savage

SUGGESTIONS FOR JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

fiction  nonfiction  children & teen

For more event details, please visit hclibrary.org > events.
Staff Spotlight:
Ruth Vargas
Title and branch:
Software Systems Manager, IT
Administrative Branch
How long have you been with HCLS?
43+ years
What excites you the most about your work and/or HCLS as a whole?
As system administrator for the Polaris system (catalog), I have the rare privilege of working with all departments, all branches, and directly with customers. Not only do I ensure that systems are operational for staff and customers on a daily basis, but I also implement changes and new features. My primary goal is to offer time-saving workflows and software improvements to all users. There is no greater joy than watching customer and staff excitement on the day a new or renovated branch opens!

What's an unusual fact about you?
I lived in Mexico for seven years, two years of university and five years with my husband and two young daughters. I feel deep ties to Mexico since my husband's family lives there, and because of the rich culture, food, and music.

What was your first job?
As a Page at my local library, of course! My mother was there, and because of the rich culture, food, and music.

Favorite type of music?
I have eclectic tastes - everything from classic rock to smooth jazz, pop, Latin, folk, oldies, and world music.

Do you read more than one book at a time?
Never - and series must be read in order. I now exclusively read e-books on my phone because it is so convenient - lightweight, goes with me everywhere, offers a wide selection of titles, and doesn't require a light when reading in bed.

Do you speak other languages?
Having lived in Mexico for seven years, I am fluent in Spanish.

What's something that you think would shock or surprise someone about you/your job?
My college degree was in anthropology, yet I've worked with technology for 40 years. Originally two of us handled all network issues, equipment installation and repair, software backups and upgrades, and adding data to the catalog. Our server was the size of a refrigerator, backups were made to huge disk packs, there was no email, and we only had seven dumb terminals for staff use (named for the seven dwarfs). There have been huge technological advances over the years, and the library system has grown from a few small community libraries to six busy full-service branches and several special collections. Support staff in the areas of IT and cataloging have increased proportionately, and we now have a great team of professionals to provide services to staff and customers.

Read ebooks your way!
Customize an ebook's font, text size, lighting & more!

Libby. The library reading app.

FOLLOW US:
hclibrary.orgMAY/JUN 2024
Cookbook Corner at East Columbia
Adults. Register at bit.ly/ecookbookcorner.
Explore various culinary cuisines/chefs of the world with a new cuisine/chef every month. In May, discuss Korean cooking.
Wed  May 15  7 - 8 pm  East Columbia

Cook Once, Eat Twice
Adults. Register at bit.ly/cook1eat2
Interested in learning how to cook less often? With some planning and preparation, you can cook once and eat twice to save time during the week. Let us show you how to fill your freezer (or fridge) to have a meal in minutes. In partnership with Giant Food.
Tue  Jun 25  7 - 8 pm  Central

Ride the Rail Trails around Maryland
Adults. Register at bit.ly/rail_trails
The MD/PA/DC area has many rail trails, ranging from 8 miles long to 185 miles long. Discover the right rail trail for you. Register at bit.ly/rail_trails.
Thur  May 2  7 - 8 pm  Glenwood

Canva for Small Business: Instagram
Adults. Register at bit.ly/ig_canva
Unleash your inner designer with Canva. Learn how to design stunning graphics for Instagram. No experience necessary. Bring your own device or use one of ours.
Thur  Jun 20  7 - 8:30 pm  Glenwood

Journey Along the Underground Railroad
Adults. Register at bit.ly/freedom_journey_hcls
Harriet Tubman’s story comes alive through traditional code songs, modern melodies, and authentic narration. Journey along the Underground Railroad with historian Linda Harris as she chronicles her annual charity walks through the lens of local African American history. Harris is the Director of Events and Programming at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center in Cambridge, MD. Registration is optional. All seating is first-come, first-served.
Thu  Jun 20  7 – 8:30 pm  Carroll Baldwin Hall (9305 Baltimore St., Savage)

Ecosystem Landscaping
Adults. Register at bit.ly/ecosystem_landscaping
Ecosystem landscaping is the art of creating landscapes that are visually beautiful and that support biological diversity. Our pollinators, the basis of our food chain, need our help. Decline of pollinators and the ecosystems that support them are in progress here and now in Howard County. Our gardening practices can reverse this trend. Come learn how your yard can contribute to ecosystem services and the survival of our native pollinators.
Wed  Jun 12  7 - 8 pm  Glenwood

Driver Safety and New Vehicle Technologies
Teens & Adults. Register at bit.ly/new_car_tech
Stay up to date with the latest safety technology in your current or future car.
Wed  Jun 26  10:45 am - 12:15 pm  East Columbia

Feel The Rhythm: Celebrate Black Music Month in June
by Sharon Pruitt-Young, East Columbia Branch
How much do you know about Black music history?
From Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Black woman credited with creating rock music, to Ella Fitzgerald, whose smooth voice earned her the title of “the queen of jazz,” Black artists have been cementing their place in music history since time immemorial.

Whether you’re into fiction, nonfiction, film, or music, you can find something at the library. See if one of these suggestions works for you as a perfect way to pay homage to Black music innovators during Black Music Month.

Showtime at the Apollo: The Epic Tale of Harlem’s Legendary Theater written by Ted Fox and illustrated by James Otis Smith
You would have a tough time finding someone who isn’t familiar with the Apollo Theater. Located in Harlem, itself a mecca of Black culture in New York City, the Apollo has for decades provided an invaluable platform for numerous Black artists. This graphic novel details the theater’s influence on Black music history.

Shine Bright: A Very Personal History of Black Women in Pop by Danyel Smith
The impact that Black women have made on pop music from the conception of the genre and well into today cannot be overstated. In her latest release, Smith masterfully mixes history, both musical and otherwise, with her experiences as a lifelong music fan to craft an insightful ode to Black women musicians.

The Final Revival of Opal and Nev by Dawnie Walton
If fiction is more your thing, The Final Revival of Opal and Nev might be exactly what you’re looking for. Though the story is a fictional history of a musical duo that never existed, the harsh lessons Opal, an unconventional Black artist, learns over decades about navigating the music industry as a Black woman are all too real.

Respect (2021)
If you’re talking about Black music innovators, Aretha Franklin is one artist who more than deserves to be a focal point in that conversation. This dramatic retelling of Franklin’s life stars vocal powerhouse Jennifer Hudson, who landed a NAACP Image Award in 2022 for her portrayal of the title role.

World Music Radio by Jon Batiste (2023)
Is there anything Jon Batiste can’t do? In World Music Radio, his seventh album, Batiste bends the limits of numerous genres to create a concept album that defies description. He proves, yet again, why he is often hailed as one of the most creative musical minds of our time.

FOR BLACK MUSIC HISTORY
music  nonfiction  children & teen
**You Can Borrow Tools from the Library**

by Eric Laun and Kelly McBride-Gill, Elkridge Branch

At the DIY Center at HCLS Elkridge Branch, you can borrow all kinds of tools, like power tools, baking pans, and sewing machines. This is not a commonplace thing. We are the only public library in Maryland that has a collection like this. If you haven’t visited the Elkridge Branch recently, do yourself a favor and stop by to take advantage of this amazing resource.

We have about every power tool you need to get your home improvement projects accomplished. For example, we have miter saws, circular saws, drills, clamps, and so many other items.

Our selection of gardening tools is ever growing (pun intended). We have a range of different types of shovels, rakes, and other common landscaping tools, along with more uncommon items like standing weed pullers and posthole diggers.

Check out the cake pans! We have a cake pan for every occasion, along with tools to help with the perfect icing job. Want to try making baguettes or bagels? We have the pans for that, too.

Another popular collection is the crafting tools. You can try out everything from a sewing machine to a soldering iron to a paper quilling kit.

That said, by not owning, you need not purchase, store, or maintain these items. It’s a big help for all the times you just need that one specific tool to get the job done but would never need it again. Or for those large tools like extension ladders, we take care of storing it for you. And this is a wonderful thing. If you feel as though you would like to learn more about these items from a human, please come by and see and we can discuss it with you. It’ll be fun!

The best part of the DIY center is the education portion. While you can stop by and chat with a knowledgeable staff member about the tools which are necessary for each type of project, the classes we offer are really the next step.

**How to Make a Modern Adirondack Chair**


Learn to build a comfortable modern Adirondack chair.

The best part of the DIY center is the education portion. While you can stop by and chat with a knowledgeable staff member about the tools which are necessary for each type of project, the classes we offer are really the next step.

**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 January 1 - February 29, 2024. Please call 410.313.7799 to report any errors or omissions.

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**TRIBUTES**

In Memory of Kathleen S. Glasscock: Robert Owings Glasscock

The Summer Reading Program at HCLS has been a game-changer for my family. Engaging and diverse, it ignited a passion for reading in my husband while fostering a sense of community. The interactive activities and incentives kept my husband motivated, turning the summer we first found out about this program into a literary adventure. The dedicated staff and well-curated book selections made it an enriching experience. Kudos to HCLS for creating a program that seamlessly blends learning, fun, and community spirit and gets my husband reading!

~ Jay Polaki, Friends & Foundation of HCLS Board Member

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**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/newsletter and opt in to the ones that interest you.

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