



source

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Longest Table
- Author events
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Banned Books Week
- Maryland STEM Festival



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hclibrary.org

NEW! HOURS

MON - THU	9 am - 8 pm
FRI & SAT	9 am - 5 pm
SUN	1 - 5 pm

HOLIDAYS + CLOSINGS

Labor Day	Aug 31 & Sep 1
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LOCATIONS + NUMBERS

HOURSplus ONLINE 410.313.7890

PHONE RENEWALS 410.313.7810

CENTRAL BRANCH 410.313.7800
10375 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044

EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH 410.313.7700
6600 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045

ELKRIDGE BRANCH 410.313.5077
6540 Washington Boulevard
Elkridge, MD 21075

GLENWOOD BRANCH 410.313.5577
2350 State Route 97
Cooksville, MD 21723

MILLER BRANCH 410.313.1950
9421 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

SAVAGE BRANCH 410.313.0760
9525 Durness Lane
Laurel, MD 20723

ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH 410.313.7750
9411 Frederick Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

TTY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Central	410.313.7883
East Columbia	410.313.7770
Elkridge	410.313.5090
Glenwood	410.313.5597
Miller	410.313.1957
Savage	410.880.5867

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert A. Mentz, Chair
Phillip M. Dodge, Vice Chair
Antonia B. Watts, Treasurer
Elizabeth Banach
Kelly L. Smith

MISSION: Howard County Library System is your place to learn, grow, and connect.

VISION: An empowered community where all people reach their potential.

source sponsored in part by Friends & Foundation of HCLS.



Letter from the President and CEO

The most valuable card in your wallet is ... your library card! September is not only full of back-to-school activities, but it's also National Library Card Sign Up Month. We want to see your cards! Have an original paper card or brand new

one? Show us your card - in person or online - for a chance to win some fun library swag (p. 3).

Students, use your cards to access free online tutoring, online writing lab, help with National History Day projects, practice PSAT, SAT, and ACT tests, and more! Educators, use your special educator's card to borrow materials for your classrooms. Whether you're in elementary, middle, or high school - or even college - your library card gives you access to a wealth of free materials to help you with homework and more.

We continue to celebrate our 85th birthday with exciting events this fall. Join us for a retrospective of Howard County Library System history in September, then reserve your place at the Longest Table in October (p. 3). We look forward to having conversations over a shared meal.

As fifth grade students form teams and prepare to register for next spring's Battle of the Books, our Friends & Foundation of HCLS is hosting an adults-only version in October. Registration sold out in a matter of hours! Authors of two of the event's Adult BOB titles join us on back-to-back nights: Brendan Slocumb on September 16 (p. 4) and Michael Finkel on September 17 (p. 5).

On September 18, we partner in the Bauder Lecture event at HCC featuring Safia Elhillo. Mark your calendars for November 6, for the Bauder Book Talk for teens at HCLS East Columbia Branch.

Throughout September and October, stop by the interactive social engagement stations in every branch that invite you to explore how you Learn, Grow, and Connect at the library. Snap a pic, share your story, and enter to win exclusive HCLS swag.

Whether you use your library card for homework, participate in a Friends & Foundation fundraiser, attend an author talk, or take a selfie in the library, HCLS is your place to learn, grow, and connect.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO

NEW HOURS:	
Mon - Thu	9 am - 8 pm
Fri & Sat	9 am - 5 pm
Sun	1 - 5 pm

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.

CONTENT AND ENDORSEMENT:

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.

PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE STATEMENT:

Please see hclibrary.org/about-us/photo-video-and-audio-release.

Howard County Library: The Origin Story

Celebrate 85 years of excellence with a journey back to where it all began.

Discover how it all started – the visionaries who helped shape it and those who carried it forward – making Howard County Library System one of the top-rated libraries in the country.

Were you around before the Miller Branch was built? Do you remember the excitement of the Central Library's grand opening in Columbia? We invite community members and library lovers to share their memories and stories.

Enjoy light refreshments after the discussion as we continue celebrating 85 years of our library's impact.

Sun Sep 21 2 - 3:30 pm Miller

How Old is Your Library Card? Photo Contest

September 1 - 30. Winners of HCLS swag drawn the first week of October.

85 YEARS of stories – and every single one starts with a library card!

Celebrate 85 years of HCLS and National Library Card Sign-Up Month by joining in a community-wide tribute to our most powerful tool, your library card. Whether you've had it for five days or 50 years, your card tells a story.

Share your photo on social media and tag the library OR library staff can help you when you visit a branch. We will feature some of the coolest, oldest, or most creative cards on HCLS social media throughout September. Don't have a card? You can get one at any branch this September to unlock access to books, classes, and more.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Saturday, October 4 | 4:30 - 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$15 - Scan QR code or visit hclibrary.org

Howard Community College, outdoors on the quad

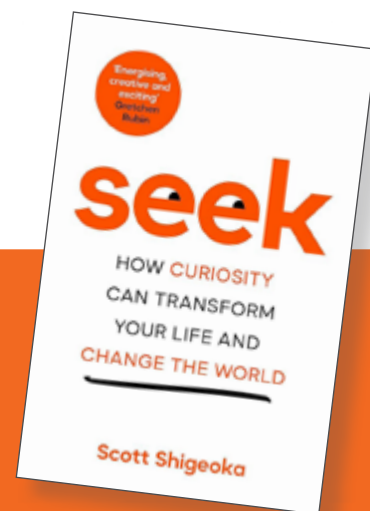


The Longest Table returns outdoors with renewed purpose: to spark curiosity, foster empathy, and build bridges across race, origin, and class.

Join us for an evening of food and meaningful dialogue, kicking off a year-round initiative that empowers community members to host their own gatherings using free HCLS conversation kits. Together, we can build a more connected Howard County – one conversation at a time. Everyone is welcome.

Weather permitting, we will dine outdoors with seating on the lawn. Please wear appropriate footwear and dress for the season. Dinner is served family style. While we try to accommodate most dietary needs, if you have strict restrictions, you are welcome to provide your own meal.

SPONSORED BY: AARP Maryland | Baltimore Banner | Columbia Association | Friends & Foundation of HCLS | Howard Community College | Howard Hughes Corporation



The first 200 registrants receive:

A free copy of *Seek: How Curiosity Can Transform Your Life and Change the World* by Scott Shigeoka (1 per family, while supplies last)

An exclusive invitation to an event with author Scott Shigeoka in November.

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hclibrary.org

“In this perfectly crafted thriller, Slocumb acts as the master conductor, bringing together a twisty plot and gorgeously wrought characters.” –The Boston Globe

Author Works: The Dark Maestro by Brendan Slocumb

For adults. Register at bit.ly/Author-Slocumb

His cello made him famous. His father made him a target. Curtis Wilson is a cello prodigy, growing up in the Southeast DC projects with a drug dealer for a father. But through determination and talent, and the loving support of his father’s girlfriend, Larissa, Curtis claws his way out of his challenging circumstances and rises to unimagined heights in the classical music world – even soloing with the New York Philharmonic.

And then, suddenly, his life disintegrates. His father, Zippy, turns state evidence, implicating his old bosses to the FBI. Now the family, Curtis included, must enter the witness protection program if they want to survive. This means Curtis must give up the very thing he loves most: sharing his extraordinary musical talents with the world. When Zippy’s bosses prove too elusive for law enforcement to convict them, Curtis, Zippy, and Larissa realize that their only chance of survival is to take on the cartel themselves. They must create new identities and draw on their unique talents, including Curtis’s musical ability, to go after the people who want them dead. But will it be enough to keep Curtis and his family alive?

A propulsive and moving story about sacrifice, loyalty, and the indomitable human spirit, *The Dark Maestro* is Slocumb at the height of his powers.

Brendan Nicholas Slocumb was raised in Fayetteville, NC, and holds a degree in music education (with concentrations in violin and viola) from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. For more than twenty years he has been a public and private school music educator and has performed with orchestras throughout northern Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC. He is currently based in DC.

Tue	Sep 16
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Book Signing
6:30 - 7:30 pm	Author Event
East Columbia 50+ Center	
6610 Cradlerock Way, Columbia (adjacent to library)	



Musical Mondays

Music holds a special place in many people’s lives, for many reasons. Ever had a song give you goosebumps? Ever wondered how music affects the human brain? If you are looking to expand your musical tastes and try something new, Musical Mondays explores how music exists in that curious intersection of art, science, culture, creativity, and entertainment.

Through fiction and nonfiction titles, we consider diverse genres, the music industry, the psychology of music, and more. Whether you are a professional musician, avid singer, or just enraptured by music, share your experiences each month. Bring songs to share!

2nd Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Miller
Sep 8 <i>How to Write One Song</i> by Jeff Tweedy, lead singer and songwriter of hit band Wilco		
Oct 13 <i>The Violin Conspiracy</i> by Brendan Slocumb		
Nov 10 <i>Anatomy of a Song</i> by Marc Meyers		

Vocal Versatility

For adults. Information at bit.ly/4kZPNQQ

Prepare to take the mic; develop your speaking voice for audiobook narration, public speaking, or acting. Start from the basics of how the voice is produced and explore how the voice can be manipulated to be easily understood or convey a character. No experience required; all skill and ability levels welcome.

Sat	Sep 13	1 - 2:30 pm	Savage
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Kick Your Music Streaming Subscription With Freegal and CDs

by Alex Pyryt, Elkridge Branch

Want a free alternative to your paid streaming subscription? The library has you covered. With your card, you can stream unlimited music from Freegal, which has more than 20 million ad-free songs. Not only do you get tons of classic albums and artists, but Freegal also features many cool and creative playlists to fit your activities and vibes. There's an app, too, so you can blast your favorite artist in the car or hit the gym with an energetic playlist. I found playlists like "Hits from the Wasteland," which has music from the Fallout game series, and "Metal Morning Workout," in case you want to lift weights to Judas Priest and Ozzy Osborne.

Included is Sony Music's vast catalog, which includes Beyonce, Pink Floyd, Ray Charles, OutKast, Leonard Cohen, and Oasis. I was surprised to find how much of my regular listening I could have been doing for free all along with my library card.

Sly and the Family Stone is included in Freegal, so to mourn Sly Stone's recent and tragic passing, now is a good time to explore his pioneering funky R&B work. And if you enjoyed



A Complete Unknown, last year's Bob Dylan biopic starring Timothée Chalamet, Bob Dylan is featured in Freegal as well, so you can explore his folk and rock eras from the film as well as his many sides that lie beyond in his later studio albums and live recordings.

Don't forget about our CDs, either. Your car or computer might have come with a built-in CD player that lets you take home and explore a plethora of tunes whenever you visit the library. Revisit 2024 phenomena like Charli XCX's *brat* or Kendrick Lamar's *GNX* or discover new releases like Franz Ferdinand's *The Human Fear* and Tate McRae's *So Close To What*, free of charge, offline, and with no ads.

Factories to Folksongs

by Ian Lyness Fernandez, East Columbia Branch

Why does the United States celebrate Labor Day on the first Monday of September? Why not celebrate on May 1, like most of the world? As a child, I never gave it much consideration. Any importance was overshadowed by having the day off from school. The answer lies in the checkered history of the American labor movement, which is as much about setbacks as it is about resilience. Workers fighting for their rights, from the railroads to the streets of Chicago, were often met with violent resistance. Nonetheless, those hard-won victories have shaped the experience of modern workers to this very day.

American labor is by its nature intersectional, with roots in the economic and social divides that culminated in the Civil War and shaped the centuries to follow. It is a history where the shop floor, Sunday service, and the union hall shared the same spaces. The advancement of technologies, from railroads to steel drills, brought both opportunity and exploitation. These emerging conditions forced workers to organize, not just for wages but for dignity. As these

struggles unfolded, they drew upon the power and potential of immigrant communities, civil rights groups, preachers, and artists alike.

Music has been a constant companion of the laborer, carrying meaning and messages farther than words alone. From the plantations and fields came spirituals like *Go Down, Moses*, which turned suffering into a promise of deliverance. *John Henry* commemorates the toil of railroad laborers and transforms it into a ballad of defiance. Folksingers gave voice to the dignity of ordinary folk, whose effort and struggle sustain the very functioning of our society. Later artists like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie would carry this tradition forward, inspiring generations of protest music.

From Factories to Folksongs

For adults. Register at bit.ly/Factories2FolkSongs

Celebrate Labor Day through the exploration of the music, industrial advancements, and struggles that define this long history.

Fri Sep 5 11:30 am - 1 pm East Columbia

Author Works: Michael Finkel & *The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession*

For adults. Register at bit.ly/Author-Finkel

Stéphane Bréitwieser is the most prolific art thief of all time. He pulled off more than 200 heists, often in crowded museums in broad daylight. His girlfriend served as his accomplice, and his collection was worth an estimated \$2 billion... but he never sold a piece, and instead displayed his stolen art in his attic bedroom.

He felt like a king. Until everything came to a shocking end.

In this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, Michael Finkel gives us one of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of our times, a riveting story of art, theft, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost.

Author and journalist Michael Finkel always knew he wanted to be a writer. He wrote and traveled widely for the *National Geographic Adventure*, and other publications. He is the bestselling author of *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* and *True Story: Murder, Memoir, Mea Culpa*. He lives with his family in northern Utah.

Wed Sep 17 7 - 8 pm online



“The Art Thief, like its title character, has confidence, élan, and a great sense of timing.”
—The New Yorker

The Gathering at the ERCC

For adults Information at bit.ly/erccsalon

Participate in a salon designed to nourish the hearts and minds of local equity changemakers.

The Gathering is inspired by the salons of 1920s Harlem and 1860s Paris – places where people came together to dream, reflect, and build community across differences.

Each month’s theme is shaped by a co-host who brings their unique perspective and passion. Tonya Aikens, HCLS President & CEO, hosts the inaugural session – Rooted & Rising – to reflect on what grounds us and lifts us up.

Whether you’re a seasoned community leader, a neighbor curious to connect, or someone seeking a moment of meaningful self-care, The Gathering is for you.

Thu	Sep 4	6 - 7:45 pm	Central
Tue	Sep 30	6 - 7:45 pm	Central

Global Neighbors

Africa: Experience the Continent

For everyone. Information at bit.ly/global_neighbors

Experience the vibrant cultures, histories, and traditions of Africa. From the elegance of North Africa to the rhythms of West Africa to the flavors of East Africa and the artistry of Southern Africa, this event showcases the continent’s rich diversity through music, dance, storytelling, artifacts, cultural outfits, and more.

Sun	Oct 5	2 - 4 pm	Miller
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2025 Bauder Lecture at HCC Featuring Safia Elhillo

For teens and adults.

Information at bit.ly/Bauder-Lecture

Safia Elhillo, distinguished bestselling author of *Bright Red Fruit*, delivers the keynote at the fifth annual Bauder Lecture.

In this gripping novel in verse, teenager Samira is determined to spend her summer exploring DC and growing as a poet—but a scandalous rumor leaves her grounded and vulnerable. Seeking solace online, she’s drawn into a secret relationship with an



older poet that threatens her reputation, her community ties, and her dreams. *Bright Red Fruit* is a powerful coming-of-age story about navigating desire, family expectations, and the search for self.

Following her address, Elhillo joins an in-depth conversation with by celeste doaks, editor, journalist, and author of *Cornrows and Cornfields*.

The Bauder Lecture by Howard Community College is made possible by a generous grant from Dr. Lillian Bauder, a community leader and Columbia resident. The series is presented in partnership with HCC and HoCoPoLitSo.

Thu	Sep 18	6 - 7 pm
Howard Community College		

.. Aging Well

Memory Cafe at Miller

For adults. Register at bit.ly/millermemorycafe

Enjoy a warm, inclusive space for individuals living with memory loss, their family, friends, and/or professional caregivers. Designed to promote connection, fun, and mental engagement, each session features a mix of gentle cognitive exercises, themed reminiscence activities, music, arts and crafts, conversation, and storytelling. No diagnosis is necessary – just a desire to connect and share meaningful time with others. Light refreshments served. Caregivers must stay with participants.

Sat	Sep 6	2 - 4 pm	Miller
Mon	Oct 6	2 - 4 pm	Miller

Understanding Scams & Fraud

For adults. Register at bit.ly/3GLR7IM

The ability to spot a scam is an essential digital skill. Review common scams, get tips for avoiding them, and learn what to do if scammed. See how AI contributes to the increased spread and complexity of scams, and receive resources for staying informed about the latest scams.

Sat	Sep 20	11 am - 12 pm	Central
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Learn About Online Shopping

For adults. Register at bit.ly/46djkTo

Can't find what you are looking in a store? Learn how to search for products, make comparisons, and add items to an online shopping cart.

Mon	Oct 27	6:30 - 7:30 pm	Central
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Embracing Change: Understanding Perimenopause & Menopause

For adults. Register at bit.ly/Embracing_Change

Engage with an evidence-based understanding of perimenopause and menopause – topics that are often overlooked, misunderstood or stigmatized. Dr. Reynaldo Lee-Llacer from Columbia Direct Primary Care offers expert insight, support and strategies to help women navigate and optimize their health.

Wed	Oct 8	6 - 7 pm	Glenwood
Sat	Oct 18	1 - 2 pm	Central

Taller Viviendo Bien con la Diabetes

Para adultos. Regístrese en bit.ly/46djs5k

Este taller de autogestión basado en evidencias está diseñado para gente que vive con diabetes y/o sus cuidadores. Los temas semanales incluyen, monitoreo de glucosa, cuidado de la piel y los pies, ejercicios, nutrición y alimentación saludable y el mantenimiento balanceado del azúcar en la sangre.

Sab	Oct 4 - Nov 8	10:30 am - 1 pm	Central
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coming soon

Bauder Book Talk



Details about this annual event for teens, including an author announcement coming soon at hclibrary.org

SAVE THE DATE

Thu Nov 6
East Columbia

Author Works: Dr. Richard Bell & *The American Revolution and the Fate of The World*

For adults. Register at bit.ly/Author-Bell-AmRev

The American Revolution was not only the colonies' triumphant liberation from the rule of an overbearing England; it was also a cataclysm that threw the entire world order into chaos.

Repositioning the Revolution at the center of an international web, this surprising new narrative history ranges as far afield as India, Africa, Central America, and Australia.

Sun	Nov 9	2 - 3:30 pm	Miller
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Learn, Grow, Connect

Options for Dealing with Debt

For adults. Register at bit.ly/4kJaC2J

Explore different options for managing and reducing debt effectively. Discuss strategies to help you regain control of your finances and build a path toward financial freedom. Presented by Educational Systems FCU.

Thu Sep 4 6 - 7:30 pm Miller

History Relived: The Blitz

For adults. Information at bit.ly/4nRhAFE

The Blitz was an eight-month long nighttime mass air attack by Germany against all cities, towns and industrial targets in Britain, which started with London. Join a discussion how the Blitz shaped the time then and how it influenced the future.

Tue Sep 9 11 am - 12 pm Glenwood

Tool Thursdays

For adults. Register at bit.ly/tool-thursdays

Learn about the wide variety of power tools you may borrow from the DIY Education Center every first Thursday. We discuss and demonstrate applications, safe use, and accessories you may need.

Thu Sep 4 & Oct 2 7 - 8 pm Elkridge

The Twenty-Something Coworking Club

For adults. Register at bit.ly/CEN-coworking-club

Join us for body doubling, social support, snacks, and dedicated time to tackle whatever "adulting" tasks that you can bring with you.

Tuesdays Sep 23 & Oct 28
6 - 7:45 pm Central

Zero Waste Living Strategies

For adults. Register at bit.ly/450IKSZ

Learn about less wasteful alternatives to common products, successful habit change principles, and strategies to navigate common situations. The improv group Mixed Vegetables join presenter Stephanie Dignan.

Sat Oct 4 2 - 4 pm Glenwood

Digital Genealogy Tools

For adults. Register at bit.ly/4535OLT

You don't have to be a genealogy expert to find out about your family's history! Discuss some of the most popular resources and tools, including those available from at the library. Explore websites that offer tips and guides to creating your digital family tree.

Mon Oct 6 10 - 11 am Glenwood

Banned Books Week

by Sahana Callahan, Administrative Branch



This year's Banned Books Week feels important. The weight of headlines, especially about libraries across the country facing cuts, having collections challenged, and seeing their communities divided, creates an opportunity to reflect on what we gain by taking our time with banned and challenged books.

The American Library Association's 2025 theme is direct: "Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights." It's a bold reminder that the freedom to read is not just about what is on the shelves.

The reference to George Orwell's *1984*, an often-banned dystopian novel that reflects the role of censorship to re-write history, speaks to the struggles that public libraries have faced recently. Our community values intellectual freedom, diversity of opinion, and freedom of expression, and the theme reminds us that speaking up is more urgent than ever.

It's said each year, but we've seen historic levels of book challenges, especially books that center the voices of LGBTQ+ people, Black and Brown communities, and those navigating complex identities. Books are being pulled from shelves not because they're harmful, but because they make some uncomfortable. But that discomfort is often the beginning of growth - learning that "different" isn't automatically "wrong."

Public libraries were built on the radical idea that knowledge belongs to everyone. We're not just warehouses of books; we're places where curiosity is nurtured, differences are respected, and freedom is practiced daily. This Banned Books Week we invite you to stand with us.

Borrow a banned book. Join a discussion. Ask questions. Speak up. Share your story. Remind your neighbors that free access to ideas is not a luxury - it's the foundation of democracy.

In Orwell's *1984*, censorship is used to control truth and rewrite history. This Banned Books Week, we push back. We read boldly. We resist silence. We protect stories, especially the ones that are under threat of erasure.

Banned Book Jewelry

For adults. Register at bit.ly/3GpHkIs

Celebrate the right to read by making jewelry inspired by banned books and your favorite titles.

Mon Sep 29 6 - 7 pm Elkridge



Celebrating Book Clubs

by Emily Bell, Central Branch

One of the best parts of working at the library is getting to talk about books. So, naturally, I was excited to be asked to co-facilitate the virtual book club Eclectic Evenings a few years ago. I quickly discovered how much we learn, not only from the books, but from each other. Piyali, facilitator of the Global Reads and Light but Not Fluffy book groups at our Miller Branch, sums up the magic of book clubs well: "It always amazes me to see how book clubs become a safe space for sharing life's experiences... Although we meet once a month, it always seems like a reunion of friends. It is a beautiful feeling."

In our modern world where thousands of books are immediately available (thanks to apps like Libby), perhaps it feels a little radical to join a book club. Sure, it can seem like a time commitment – but think of it more as a commitment to lifelong learning, broadening literary horizons, and connecting with fellow readers. One book club member comments, "books are great learning opportunities for me. They open up my world."

The opportunity to read outside your comfort zone is often fruitful. Shana says, "One of my favorite things about this book club [Books on Tap] is that it has introduced me to books and authors I probably would not have found on my own." Even if every book isn't your cup of tea, it can lead to compelling discussions or a new perspective. Sahana, who facilitates Between the Lines: An Intersectional Book Club, comments that one of their favorite aspects of book groups is hearing the refrain "I wouldn't have read this if not for book club, and I really liked it!"

At HCLS, book clubs come in all shapes and sizes. Some meet in-person at the library or in the community, others virtually. Many feature a wide array of genres and topics while others carve out their own niche, focusing on graphic novels, music, or sci-fi and fantasy. There's something for every reader.

For those who want to connect with other readers without the worry of assigned reading, consider Miller's What's on your Shelf?. Julie, one of the facilitators, says, "even though we're not all reading the same book each month, we always learn so much and have a fabulous time."

In our busy, stressful lives a book club can be a respite from the chaos, and a chance to reflect and grow in a supportive environment. A member of a handful of HCLS book discussion groups, Ellen remarks, "It's amazing how deep a conversation you can have with people you only see once a month and with whom your primary shared interest is reading."

Memorable Titles

Members of HCLS staff-led book clubs recommend some of their favorite reads.

***American Rambles: A Walk of Memory and Renewal* by Neil King:** Because it made me look at trees differently. It brought me peace and joy in the ordinary.

***A Long Way to a Small Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers:** For a book mostly about aliens, it had such introspective tidbits about humanity.

***Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel:** The book club opened my eyes to the fun of reading dystopian novels, fantasy, and other genres that I would never have selected myself.

***This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger:** It's a heartbreaking yet heartwarming story of four runaway orphans.

***The Mountains Sing* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai:** This is an historical fiction set in Vietnam. I learned about the history and culture of Vietnam as it follows the Tran family.

***Trust* by Hernan Diaz:** I've never read a book like it before. It features four distinct books within a book, lots of twists and reveals that build on each other.

***The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann:** It was well researched and well written. Everyone in our group loved it.

BOOK CLUBS

There's something for every reader.

HCLS staff facilitate a wide variety of groups that read and discuss all sorts of books – from nonfiction to romance to graphic novels. New members always welcome; you can join any group that interests you at any time. Titles listed online.

***Meets online or is hybrid.**

To register and see monthly book selections:

- Visit hclibrary.org, Click on "classes and events,"
- In the green Filters box on the left, choose Ages 19+ (adult) under "age group" and Book Clubs under "program type."
- **OR** type the name of the group into the Keyword Search field.

CENTRAL BRANCH

***Eclectic Evenings** 2nd Tuesdays; 6:45 pm
Read an eclectic array of various genres.

Noontime Books 3rd Thursdays; 12 pm
Consider a variety of fiction and nonfiction books.

***Reads of Acceptance** 4th Thursdays; 6:45 pm
Discuss books pertaining to LGBTQ+ experiences in a queer- and trans-affirming group setting. All identities welcome.

EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH

Good Reads 4th Fridays; 1 pm
Looking for thought-provoking reads and engaging discussions? Join us for lively conversations in a welcoming atmosphere.

***In Other Worlds** 4th Wednesdays; 6:30 pm
Discuss a wide array of science fiction and fantasy movies (2nd Wednesdays) and books (4th Wednesdays), alternating.

***Nonfiction Addiction** 3rd Thursdays; 6:30 pm
Read a variety of nonfiction books, from memoirs to history, from philosophy to popular science.

***Romance Reads** 4th Wednesdays; 6:45 pm
Discuss your favorite romances as you "zoom" away with new authors and books to add to your wish list.

ELKRIDGE BRANCH

ELKS Excellent Reads 2nd Tuesdays; 12:30 pm
Consider mostly fiction, both contemporary and historical.

Read. Think. Talk. Mondays; 6:30 pm
Engage in a thoughtful discussion of books that explore human beings and their conditions.

The Thursday Next Book Club 3rd Thursdays; 6:30 pm
Read mostly fiction, contemporary and historical.

GLENWOOD BRANCH

The Reading Cafe Last Tuesdays; 1 pm
Dip into a different genre each month.

***Warning: Graphic Content** Third Tuesdays; 7 pm
Leave the superheros at home; this is a place for all of the other graphic novels out there!

MILLER BRANCH

Bas Bleu 3rd Wednesdays; 6:45 pm
Engage with a variety of literary fiction, and all are welcome - not just bluestockings!

Global Reads 1st Mondays; 6 pm
Read a wide range of books on different cultures around the world, as well as immigrant fiction.

Hush-Hush 1st Wednesdays; 6 pm
Bring a book and enjoy one hour of peace, quiet, and reading, with an optional fifteen minutes of mingling at the end. There is no assigned reading and no pressure to socialize. All readers welcome.

Light But Not Fluffy 3rd Thursdays; 2 pm
Discuss light-hearted books that make us smile about love, hope, and grace.

Mostly Historical Fiction 3rd Mondays; 2 pm
Discuss historical fiction from a wide-range of time periods and settings—everything from ancient Greece to 1970s Hollywood.

NEW! Musical Mondays 2nd Mondays; 6 pm
Explore how music powerfully intersects art, culture, science, and creativity through fiction and nonfiction reads. Bring song recommendations to share and explore new, different genres.

Spies, Lies & Alibis 1st Tuesdays; 6:45 pm
Focus on spies, espionage, and world intrigue, alternating both classic and contemporary fiction and nonfiction, from the twentieth century and beyond.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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

Book Club Revue

For adults.

Register at bit.ly/BookClubRevue

Continue to celebrate the Library's 85th Birthday as we promote some of the year's most discussable fiction and nonfiction books. Get tips to optimize your discussions, a sneak peek at the Books for Discussion 2026 list, and hear about HCLS book clubs.

Tue
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Sep 30
online

SAVAGE BRANCH

Mystery*

2nd Wednesdays; 6:30 pm

Discuss a wide range of mysteries.

Nonfiction*

3rd Wednesdays; 6:30 pm

Consider a varied array of nonfiction selections as we examine the diverse realities and perspectives that shape our world.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Asian American Literature*

3rd Mondays; 7 pm

Enjoy a wide range of titles that explore the Asian American identity and experiences.

Between the Lines

2nd Fridays; 5 pm

Meets at Brewing Good in Historic Savage Mill

A space for readers who want to make an effort to read, highlight, and discuss layered stories, where those layers relate to identity, genre, or form. Books held at Savage Branch.

Books on Tap

1st Wednesdays; 6 pm

Meets at The Ale House, Columbia

Read a variety of titles and genres for a wide set of perspectives and experiences. Arrange to borrow books as you would any other.

The Unbook Reading Group

2nd Wednesdays,
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Meets at Backwater Books, Old Ellicott City

Connect with a community of readers without the stress of assigned reading! Bring a book of your choice, read silently in a comfy spot. Wrap up the evening by sharing something interesting about what you read. No purchase necessary.

*NEW! Required Reading: Texts for Change

Meets quarterly at 7 pm: Aug 12, Nov 10, Feb 10, May 12

For readers who care about community and meaningful conversation. It's for anyone who's curious, committed to learning, and ready to grow. Registration required.

for gardeners

Ecosystem Landscaping

For adults. Register at bit.ly/3TFYTXy

Ecosystem landscaping is the art of creating landscapes that are visually beautiful and support biological diversity. Learn how soil, water, air, plants, insects, and vertebrates work together to reduce our work.

Wed Sep 3 6:30 - 7:30 pm Elkridge

Community Plant Swap

For adults. Information at bit.ly/4ly43kN

Swap plants with fellow community members! Bring a box or other container(s) to gather and take home new plant friends. Have an abundance of healthy seedlings, cuttings, bare-root or potted plants? Bring them to the Take-a-Plant area so they can find a new home. Donations can also be dropped off the day before at the Main Floor Research Desk.

Sun Sep 7 2:30 - 3:30 pm Central



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Families, all ages. Ticket required.

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with dance, musical performances and traditional foods! Join us for this exciting celebration!

¡Celebremos el mes de la Herencia Hispana con bailes tradicionales, presentaciones, música y comida tradicional!
¡Únete a esta emocionante celebración!

Sat Sep 20 2:30 - 4 pm Elkridge

Los Veteranos: Latinos in World War II

Ages 11+. Register at bit.ly/LosVeteranos

An important part of U.S. history long before WWII, the war gave Latinos new opportunities and presented them with new challenges. Because Latinos did not serve in segregated units, as African Americans did, their WWII history is sometimes overlooked. Was that history unique, and if so, how? Students learn about Latino WWII heroes and average soldiers, as well as issues of ethnicity and acculturation on the home front. Presented by the National WWII Museum.

Mon Sep 22 6 - 7 pm Elkridge

Book & Chat! *The Flying Girl How Aida de Acosta Learned To Soar* by Margarita Engle

Ages 6-9. Ticket required

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by reading this fun interactive book written by Margarita Engle a Cuban-American poet. Then create a paper airplane.

Mon Sep 29 6 - 6:45 pm East Columbia

Family Story and Craft: Pura Belpré Mini Bookshelf

Families, Ages 6+. Ticket required.

Listen to a story and work together on fun crafts and activities. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a story about children's librarian Pura Belpré, then create a miniature bookshelf filled with Pura Belpré Award-winning titles.

Tue Sep 30 6:30 - 7 pm Miller

The Interpreter by Olivia Abtahi

A heartfelt picture book about a young soccer-loving girl who interprets for her Spanish-speaking parents.



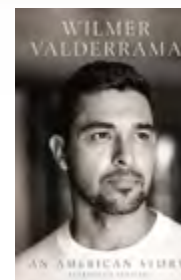
Relit: 16 Latinx Remixes of Classic Stories

In classic stories remixed, Latinx characters take center stage and empower readers to see themselves in the stories that make our world.



An American Story: Everyone's Invited by Wilmer Valderrama

In this timely memoir, Valderrama looks back on his journey from a tiny pueblo in Venezuela to the big city of Los Angeles.



Latin-ish: More Than 100 Recipes Celebrating American Latino Cuisines by Marisel Salazar

Bringing you a diverse array of delectable foods, *Latin-ish* unites cultures and cuisines that will have you coming back for más, por favor.



Día de los Muertos Calaveras

Ages 11-18. Registration required at bit.ly/DdLM25

Learn about Día de los Muertos and sugar skulls, also known as calaveras. Sculpt a calavera using air dry clay and return for the second class to paint and decorate it.

Thursdays Oct 16 & 23 6 - 7:30 pm Glenwood

World Languages Café

Ages 13 and up. Registration is preferred but not required.

Small conversation groups are led by community volunteers who are fluent or native speakers, creating an informal, low-pressure setting where learning happens through connection.

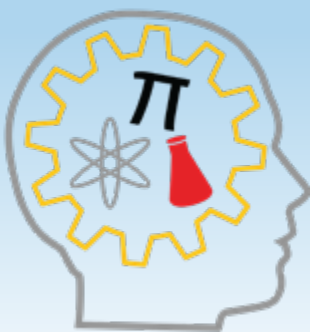
Current languages include Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese and Madarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog. Availability may vary by location.

2nd Thursdays 6 - 7:45 pm Miller
4th Tuesdays 7 - 8:45 pm East Columbia 50+ Center

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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

MARYLAND STEM FESTIVAL



ENERGY

October 17 - November 16

The Maryland STEM festival is a month-long celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics designed to advance STEM education and encourage students to pursue STEM careers. Through a series of community-based events, the festival celebrates the economic, educational, and cultural impacts of STEM.

Check the library's calendar for classes for all ages happening at all branches.

Fairytale Engineering: The Three Little Pigs

Ages 6-9. Ticket required.

Listen to a version of the fairytale The Three Little Pigs, then engineer a house made of straws, wood, or brick (cardboard that looks like bricks)!

Thu Oct 2 6 - 6:45 pm East Columbia

Fairytale Engineering: The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Ages 6-9. Ticket required.

Listen to a version of the fairytale The Three Billy Goats Gruff, then engineer a bridge to keep the three goats safe from the troll!

Fri Oct 17 2 - 2:45 pm Elkridge

Electric Moving Head Fan

Ages 11-17. Register at bit.ly/MSM_upcoming25

Engineer a standing, electric fan while learning motor assembly, basic circuitry, and the principles of convection and evaporation.

Sat Oct 18 2 - 2:30 pm Elkridge

Chemistry in the Library: The Hidden Life of Spices

2nd grade & up (Ages 7-8 must be accompanied by an adult). Registration required.

Join a chemist from the American Chemical Society for a hands-on program on the chemistry of the hidden life of spices.

Sat Oct 18 2 - 3 pm Miller

Makerspace Mondays

For ages 11 - 17. Register at bit.ly/MSM_upcoming25

Learn about famous scientists and inventors, then try the principles with a hands-on project. All materials provided.

Mondays; 6 - 7:30 pm Elkridge
Oct 20 Newton's Cradle
Oct 27 Radio Transmitter

Math Games: Mancala

Ages 8-11. Ticket required.

Learn to play different versions of the game Mancala and practice your math skills while you play this ancient strategy game. Make and decorate a game board to take home and continue the fun!

Wed Nov 12 3 - 3:45 pm Elkridge

Fairy Tale Engineering

Ages 6-9. Ticket required.

Experience classic fairy tale stories through an engineering lens. Enjoy hands-on, engaging problem-solving activities.

Wed Nov 12 4 - 4:45 pm Central

Hexbug Nano

Ages 7-10. Ticket required.

Work in groups to create mazes and playgrounds for your hexbugs. Bring your creativity and engineer the toughest maze where you can use your STEM skills!

Sat Nov 15 2 - 3 pm Elkridge

GALE

**ARE YOU READY FOR
AUTUMN ADVENTURES?**

Keep your car running smoothly
with 24/7 maintenance guidance.

CHILTON LIBRARY

Hooray! I Ate My Math Homework!

by Jean Boone, Central Branch

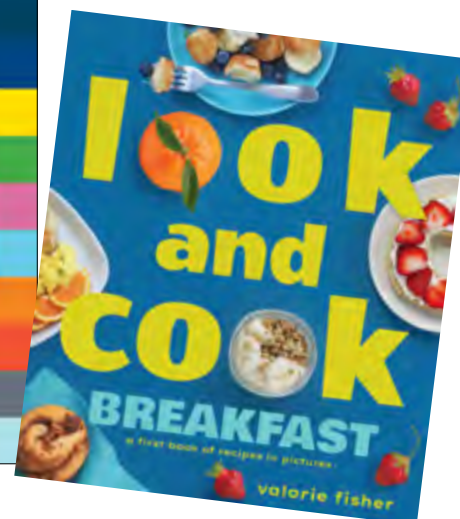
HCLS offers many resources for supporting students: skill building activities on our website, research materials and guidance, Brainfuse online tutoring, and free access to computers and printing, to name just a few. Explore a new place to look for homework help - the cookbook aisle!

Why not start the school year with a plan to do more family cooking that fosters math learning and fun? Cooking with kids builds a wide range of math skills – from counting, sorting, and measuring, to sequencing, fractions, ratios, and budgeting. Best of all, instead of a completed worksheet, cooking produces something delicious to eat and share!

Start early and involve even the youngest children in kitchen tasks and food conversations. Ask them to count the ingredients or compare the measuring cups to find the biggest or smallest. Talk about the steps in the recipe and let them name what goes first, second, third, last. Make a pattern with cookies on a pan or fruit on a plate.

To get some great ideas for things to make with the littlest cooks, check out ***Look and Cook Breakfast: A First Book of Recipes in Pictures*** by Valorie Fisher.

With simple recipes presented visually, pre-readers can decipher what happens at each step, while the grown-up oversees the sharp tools and oven. You'll soon be feasting on Tasty Toast, Choco Pillows, and Topsy-Turvy Eggs!



Older chefs can tackle more involved tasks. Challenge them to double or halve the quantity of one ingredient or work out the fractions involved in dividing a pizza equally. Let them help with grocery shopping, evaluating the price of ingredients for value or the correct quantity for a recipe.

Inspire them with **The How-to Cookbook for Young Foodies** by Janna Saltz and the editors of *Delish*, which offers great information on cooking techniques as well as recipes the whole family can enjoy like Mexican Beef and Rice Skillet, Chicken Tacos, or Chocolate Pizza.

Even cleanup can be a math game - your student builds spatial reasoning skills by puzzling out the best way to fit dishes in the dishwasher.

Cookbooks + Kids + Math = a win for everyone! This fall, strengthen your student's math skills, create new and interesting meals, get help in the kitchen, and inspire a young chef!



Maximize Your History Day Research

Ages 11 - 17, with parent. 90 min. Register at bit.ly/HDRsept25

Assigned a National History Day project? Our research experts have tips and tools for you. Meet history day judges and learn strategies to locate sources. Parents and teachers welcome.

Mon	Sep 29	6 - 7:30 pm	Central
Thu	Sep 25	6:30 - 7:45 pm	Elkridge

National History Day Thesis Workshop

For ages 11 - 17. Register at bit.ly/NHDThesis25

A solid thesis is the foundation for any NHD project. Explore the theme Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History. Discuss ways to evolve a topic into a working thesis, then into a blueprint for an argument that examines the significance of an historical topic in relation to this year's theme.

Thu	Oct 9	6 - 7 pm	Elkridge
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Marvelously Revolting Recipes

The foods of Roald Dahl stories are full of magic and wonder. Delight in the silliness and deliciousness of these recipes, and enjoy the beautiful illustrations.



1, 2, 3 Cook!: My First Cookbook

Step-by-step instructions for 50 recipes helps young readers gain confidence in the kitchen with basic cooking skill.

The Official Five Nights at Freddy's Cookbook by Scott Cawthon

Explore recipes inspired by the *Five Nights at Freddy's* games. With gorgeous photography, the book is packed with mouthwatering recipes that are hauntingly delicious.

Fantastic Vegan Recipes for the Teen Cook: 60 Incredible Recipes you Need to Try for Good Health and a Better Planet by Elaine Skiadass

With a fresh, friendly voice and easy-to-follow instructions, this book offers vegan cooking tips, tricks and techniques for showstopping vegan dishes.

Half Baked Harvest Quick & Cozy by Tieghan Gerard

Relying on basic ingredients and Tieghan's signature knack for making sauces and dressings, these recipes make your meals feel like a warm hug.

A Whisper of Cardamom: 80 Sweetly Spiced Recipes to Fall in Love With by Eleanor Ford

Celebrating the love story between sugar and spice, find 80 sweet recipes and a guide to spice switches.

The Restaurant of Lost Recipes by Hisashi Kashiwai

Chef Nagare and his daughter Koishi serve their customers meals from their customers' most treasured memories at their Kamogawa Diner in Kyoto.



Cookbook Corner

For adults. Register at bit.ly/eco_cookbookcorner

Explore various culinary cuisines/chefs of the world. A new cuisine/chef every month. September's theme is Chinese cuisine. Pick up a cookbook at the library, prepare some recipes, and have a culinary discussion.

Wed Sep 17 6:45 - 7:45 pm East Columbia

Third Annual College and Armed Forces Day

For ages 11+.

Representing broad ethnic, economic, cultural and geographic diversity, participate in a variety of college awareness presentations such as financial aid, and NCAA and SAT/ACT information sessions. Visit with college, university, and military recruiters to discuss enrollment processes, history, campus life, and more.

Sat Sep 27 11 am - 2 pm East Columbia

Digital SAT Practice Test

For ages 13 - 17. Register at bit.ly/SAT_Digital

Take a digital SAT practice test with the C2 Education Testing Company, then return the following Wed at 7 pm for your scores and Q&A (parents/guardians welcome at score session).

Sat Oct 11 10:30am - 12:30 pm Elkridge
Wed Oct 15 7 pm Elkridge

Teen Beyond Words

For ages 11 - 21. Registration required

For teens with developmental and intellectual disabilities, Teen Beyond Words offers hands-on themed stations focused on motor skills, creativity, cognition, movement, and sensory play.

Wednesdays; 5 - 7 pm

Miller

Sep 24: Register at bit.ly/4lxgs8h

Oct 22: Register at bit.ly/3ZMfMn2

Staff Spotlight: Erin Lukas



**Children's Instructor and Research Specialist
HCLS Glenwood Branch**

How long have you been with HCLS?

Two years.

What excites you the most about your work and/or HCLS as a whole?

I enjoy working with children and teaching classes. I love reading to children and recommending books to them.

What's an unusual fact about you?

I like to quilt and craft. I have made a quilt to look like a bookshelf with children's books on display.

Do you have pets? What kind?

I have two cats and a dog. My cats are Athena and Diego. Athena is a two-year-old little girl I've had for a few months now and Diego is a fifteen year old boy I have had for fourteen years. The dog is a corgi named Seamus, and he is thirteen.

What is a book you've read that changed how you think about a topic or your life?

I read *Strictly No Elephants* by Lisa Mantchev for the first time a few years ago, and I fell in love with the theme of acceptance. I like how the children who are not allowed to join the pet playdate do not get even with the other children, but decide to let anyone join their club. I try to model how I treat others in my life.

Do you read more than one book at a time?

I like to have options and often read several books at one time. I do this for fun and work. I listen to some, reread parts of others and read many picture books for class.

What's your favorite place to travel?

So far my favorite place to travel to has been Seoul, South Korea. I attended a summer abroad program in college and was there for a month. It has been many years since I visited, and I plan to go again in 2026. I had a great time exploring the history, culture and food of South Korea and am excited to go again.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

My dream location is Egypt. I fell in love with ancient Egyptian history and art as a child and have always wanted to go and explore the pyramids, cities, Nile, and ruins.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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

Getting Together



FOR TEENS

Magic: The Gathering™ Club

Ages 11-18. Register at bit.ly/MTG_upcoming

Develop math, reading, critical thinking and social skills by playing friendly Magic: The Gathering™ card battles. Deckboxes, sleeves, dice, preconstructed decks, and booster packs donated by MagiKids™.

Saturdays Sep 6 & Oct 4 2 - 4 pm Elkridge

Teen D&D Club

Ages 11-18. Doors open 15 minutes before the game.

Prepare for a grand adventure playing Dungeons & Dragons 5E. All experience levels of players are welcome (20-player maximum).

Wed	Sep 17	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Miller
Thu	Oct 17	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Miller

Mindful Mosaics: Mindfulness Painting

Ages 11-17. Register at bit.ly/MosaicsSept

Relax, breathe deeply, and paint. Enjoy the feel of applying brush to canvas as you listen to soothing music.

Mindful Mosaics is a student-led group dedicated to spreading awareness about mental health in teens by creating engaging events that combat anxiety and depression while promoting mindfulness and self-care.

Sat Sep 20 11 am - 12 pm Elkridge

Teen Artlab: Glitter Jars

Ages 11-18. Register at howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/event/teen-artlab-glitter-jars-349261

Welcome to Teen Artlab, a monthly art club and creativity space where you can try new projects and chill with other teen artists in a low key setting with quiet music and relaxing vibes.

Thu Sep 25 6 - 7 pm Savage

FOR ADULTS

Mini Library Tins

Teens and adults. Register at bit.ly/4IrUuDN

Alter a mini tin to make a mini library complete with tiny books, shelf decor, and favorite quotes.

Wed Sep 10 10 - 11:30 am Glenwood

Speed Puzzling Showdown!

Adults. Register at bit.ly/SpeedPuzzleShowdown

Get ready for another round of fast-paced fun! Gather your team and prepare to test your puzzle-solving skills in a thrilling, timed competition. Space is limited in both timeslots; please register your team for your preferred competition time. Spectators welcome.

Competition 1:

Sat Sep 27 10 am - 12 pm Miller

Competition 2:

Sat Sep 27 2 - 4 pm Miller

Game Fest

For everyone. Information at bit.ly/GameFestCentral

Join us for an exciting, all-ages Game Fest at Central! Explore a variety of gaming experiences, from board games and video games to D&D and tabletop RPGs. Enjoy live music from the Baltimore Gamer Symphony Orchestra & Choir, participate in interactive workshops, and connect with local community partners.

Sat Sep 27 11 am - 2 pm Central

Improv Comedy for Everyone

For adults. Register at bit.ly/sav-improv

Learn the basics of comedy improvisation through games and collaborative storytelling. It's all fun and games. Side effects may include increased confidence, boosted mood, and improved public speaking skills. No experience required; all skill and ability levels welcome.

Sat Sep 27 1 - 2:30 pm Savage

Random Crafts of Kindness

For adults. Register at bit.ly/rcok

Learn about a craft, make one for yourself, and make some extras to give away to other community members.

Saturdays; 3 - 4:40 pm Savage

Sep 20 Mini Toadstool

Oct 18 Squeegee Ghost Paintings

Fall Fun & Scary Tales

Crochet Club: Amigurumi Pumpkins

Ages 8+, teens & adults. Registration required.

Learn from and collaborate with other crocheters while attempting our featured beginner patterns. Some materials are provided to learn skills in class. Participants are encouraged to bring their own materials.

Sat Oct 11 3:30 - 4:30 pm Savage

Pumpkin Painting and Apple Cider

Ages 5+ (children must be accompanied by an adult). Registration required at bit.ly/PumpkinsAndCider

Celebrate the season by decorating a pumpkin and enjoying a cup of apple cider. All materials (including artificial pumpkins) supplied.

Fri Oct 17 1 - 2:30 pm Glenwood

Hocus-Pocus Slime Science

Ages 6+. Ticket required.

Explore the science of chemistry as we brew up some fiendishly fun slime for Halloween.

Sat Oct 18 2 - 2:45 pm Elkridge

Go Batty!

Families. Ticket required.

Learn how vital bats are for our environment. Engage in hands-on learning and activities to preserve and safeguard the only flying mammal in our world.

Fri Oct 24 2:30 - 3:30 pm Savage

Halloween STEAM Stations

Ages 3-7. Ticket required.

Go on a festive, hands-on Halloween adventure as you build a glow web, make a witch's brew, mix a potion, and more! Dress for mess.

Sat Oct 25 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Savage

Magical Mythical Monsters

Ages 5-11. Ticket required.

Celebrate mystery and mystique of various fictional monsters through stories, activities, and crafts. Meet our Kraken, and take a picture too!

Sat Oct 25 2 - 3 pm Savage

Witchy Wonders

Families; 45 min. Ticket required.

Play pretend! Enjoy stories and station activities like creating your own potions. Costumes welcome.

Mon Oct 27 10 - 10:45 am Savage

Halloween Stories & Costume Parade

Families. Ticket required.

Listen to stories to celebrate this eerie day, then show off your costume in a parade around the library.

Fri Oct 31 9:30 - 10:15 am Savage

9:30 - 10 am Halloween Stories

10 - 10:15 am Costume Parade

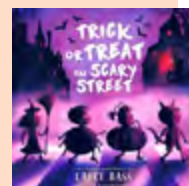


Monsterland: A Journey Around the World's Dark Imagination by Nicholas Jubber

Discover more about the monsters we've invented – all with one thing in common: their ability to terrify.

Trick or Treat on Scary Street by Lance Bass

Come follow thirteen trick-or-treaters down Scary Street. Who will make it to the end... and what last trick (or treat) awaits?"

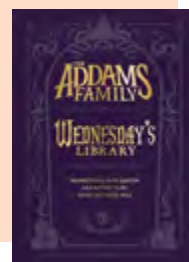


The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story Graphic Novel by Mary Downing Hahn

Diana and her little brother Georgie know every inch of the land around the old Willis place, a crumbling mansion that some people say is haunted.

Wednesday's Library: Delightfully Dark Quotes and Gothic Tales from One Grim Girl by Alexandra West

Everyone knows Wednesday Addams – she's dark, twisted, and perfectly peculiar. Take a journey through Wednesday Addams's reading list in this literary collection.



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 May 1 - June 30, 2025. Please call 410.313.7799 to report any errors or omissions.

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In memory of Mahendri Pal Bedi: Susham Bedi

In memory of Kathleen S. Glascock: Robert Owings Glascock

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As a mother of four, the back-to-school season always fills me with a mix of excitement, hope, and a sense of fresh beginnings. Every new school year is another opportunity for my children to grow, not just academically, but personally and socially.

Howard County Library System plays a crucial role in that journey. The library is so much more than a building filled with

books; It's a hub where every child, regardless of background, has access to knowledge, technology, enrichment, and opportunity. It's where my kids have discovered their love for reading, explored new interests, and built confidence.

As a parent, I love that the library reinforces what our schools are doing, and then takes it a step further. It provides a safe, welcoming space after school, where students can get help with homework, explore creative outlets, or simply find a quiet place to read and reflect.

Being involved with the Friends of HCLS means I get to support something I truly believe in; an institution that uplifts the entire community. It represents the best of who we are: inclusive, curious, compassionate, and always striving for better. I love the library because it opens doors not just to stories, but to brighter futures.

- Heather Shafer, member Friends & Foundation of HCLS Board



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