

Howard County Library System

source

NOV/DEC 2025

**Puzzles & Games
at the Library**
p. 10

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
Chimamanda Adichie
Bauder Book Talk for teens
Scott Shigeoka
Museums Around the World
Veterans Day
Best Books of 2025



V30 N6
source
hclibrary.org



Letter from the President and CEO

NEW! HOURS

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

HOLIDAYS + CLOSINGS

Thanksgiving	Nov 27 & 28
Close at 4 pm on Wed, Nov 26	
Christmas	Dec 24 & 25
New Years Eve	Close at 4 pm

LOCATIONS + NUMBERS

HOURSplus ONLINE	410.313.7890
PHONE RENEWALS	410.313.7810
CENTRAL BRANCH 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway Columbia, MD 21044	410.313.7800
EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH 6600 Cradlerock Way Columbia, MD 21045	410.313.7700
ELKRIDGE BRANCH 6540 Washington Boulevard Elkridge, MD 21075	410.313.5077
GLENWOOD BRANCH 2350 State Route 97 Cooksville, MD 21723	410.313.5577
MILLER BRANCH 9421 Frederick Road Ellicott City, MD 21042	410.313.1950
SAVAGE BRANCH 9525 Durness Lane Laurel, MD 20723	410.313.0760
ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH 9411 Frederick Road Ellicott City, MD 21042	410.313.7750

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

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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.

Another wonderful year at Howard County Library System is coming to a close, and we still have so much to share with you. We hope you include us in your plans over the next two months, even if it's a moment of peace and quiet during the holiday busy-ness.

A wide variety of authors are visiting in November. Our third annual Bauder Book Talk on November 6 (p. 4) spotlights Joy, Magic, and Truth as the theme for this event around the acclaimed novel, *Blackout*. Ashley Woodfolk joins middle and high school students to talk about creating space for Black teens to see themselves on the page.

For adults, Dr. Richard Bell introduces his new book on November 9 that situates the American Revolution as pivotal on the world stage (p. 5). Then, Scott Shigeoka visits on November 17 to talk about the importance of curiosity and how it has the power to bring people together (p. 4). On November 23, we welcome bestselling author Chimamanda Adichie as she discusses her new novel, *Dream Count*, which tells the story of four women, their dreams and desires (p. 3).

November also brings Veterans Day, along with a line-up of classes for veterans and active service members. The Lullaby Project leads folks through the process of writing a song - whether a lullaby for a child or in recognition of someone special in your life. Author H. P. Shreve discusses her new novel about the era between the world wars (p. 8).

During the holidays, friends and family often turn to games and puzzles during extended times together. Swap old puzzles for "new" ones for upcoming holiday gatherings at our seasonal puzzle swap on December 13. Teens can join in role-playing fun with D&D clubs forming at many branches (p. 11).

We hope you enjoy the curated selection of titles for various themes throughout this issue, including books about Native American Heritage, arts and crafts, and holiday baking. You can also find a list of some of the Best Books of 2025. And don't forget to check out the back cover and mark your calendar for February 28 when Evening in the Stacks Sets Sail!

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO

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.

Author Works: A Conversation with Chimamanda Adichie

Sun Nov 23 2 -3 pm Miller

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

Chimamanda Adichie, the bestselling and award-winning author of *Americanah* and *We Should All Be Feminists*—converses about her new novel, *Dream Count*. In this highly anticipated new release, Adichie tells the story of four women and their loves, longings, and desires.

The story's main character, Chiamaka, is a Nigerian travel writer living in America. Alone in the midst of the pandemic, she recalls her past lovers and grapples with her choices and regrets. Zikora, her best friend, is a lawyer who has been successful at everything until, broken-hearted, she must turn to the person she thought she needed least. Omelogor, Chiamaka's bold, outspoken cousin who works as a financial powerhouse in Nigeria, begins to question how well she knows herself. And Kadiatou, Chiamaka's housekeeper, proudly raising a daughter in America, faces unthinkable hardship that threatens all she has worked to achieve.

In *Dream Count*, Adichie trains her fierce eye on these women in a sparkling, transcendent novel about the very nature of love itself. A reflection on the choices we make and those made for us, on daughters and mothers, on our interconnected world, *Dream Count* pulses with emotional urgency in language that soars with beauty and power.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in Enugu, Nigeria in 1977. She grew up on the campus of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where her father was a professor and her mother was the first female registrar. She studied medicine for a year at Nsukka then left for the US at the age of 19 to continue her education on a different path. She graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in Communication and Political Science.

She has a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Arts degree in African History from Yale University.

Her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and her second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun*, won the Orange Prize. Her 2013 novel *Americanah* won the US National Book Critics Circle Award and was named one of *The New York Times* Top Ten Best Books of 2013. Her latest book, *Dream Count*, won the Women's Prize for Fiction.



"Suffused with truth, wit, and compassion, this is a magnificent novel that understands the messiness of human motivation and is courageous enough to ask difficult questions."

-Johanna Thomas-Corr, *The Times* (UK)

JOY TRUTH MAGIC

Bauder Book Talk

Thu Nov 6 4:30 - 6:30 pm East Columbia

For ages 11-18. Registration required at bit.ly/bauder2025

Celebrate the voices of young Black girls in literature at this year's Bauder Book Talk. **Ashley Woodfolk** shares how their stories center joy, magic, and truth while creating space for Black teens to see themselves on the page.

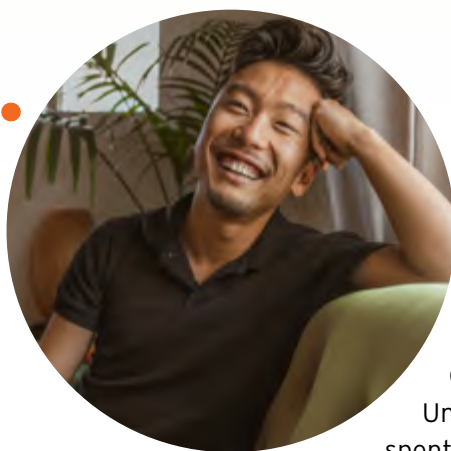
Middle and high school students are invited to hear directly from the author and receive a free copy of *Blackout*.

Ashley Woodfolk is one of the many co-authors of *Blackout*, an acclaimed YA novel that follows thirteen teenagers in six interlinked stories. After a summer heatwave causes a city-wide power outage in New York City, Black teens explore love, friendships, and hidden truths over the course of a single day.

Woodfolk is the critically acclaimed author of *The Beauty That Remains* and *When You Were Everything*. Her work explores love, loss, friendship, and the complexities of finding one's voice. A former publishing professional, Woodfolk is celebrated for her lyrical prose and heartfelt storytelling that resonates deeply with teens.



Bauder Book Talks is made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Lillian Bauder, a community leader and Columbia resident. Howard County Library System presents this annual endowed author event, for under-served students in grades 6-8 attending public schools in Columbia with high percentages of African American and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students. Authors and titles selected are high-interest and high-quality on topics of social issues, equity, and related matters. Student participants have the opportunity to hear from and engage the author and receive a copy of the author's book. The event honors the memory of Don Bauder, late husband of Dr. Lillian Bauder and a champion of civil rights and social justice causes.



• Curiosity as a Force for Connection • • • • •

Mon Nov 17
6:30 - 7:30 pm Miller

For adults, Registration encouraged at bit.ly/Seek-Event

On a road trip across the United States, Scott Shigeoka spent a year traveling to small

towns, political rallies, and churches. He encountered people whose beliefs and backgrounds differed greatly from his own. He did so to practice curiosity.

Rather than leading with assumptions or judgment, he asked questions, listened to stories, and shared his own experiences. In a space where he seemed (at first) to have little in common with those around him, he discovered points of connection. That is the nature of curiosity: it has the power to bring people together, turn differences into bridges of understanding, and create moments of meaningful connection.

An internationally recognized curiosity expert, Scott joins us for an evening dedicated to discovering how curiosity can transform the way we relate to each other—and ourselves. Speaking about his book *Seek: How Curiosity Can Transform Your Life and Change the World*, he shares stories from his travels, introduces practical, research-based strategies for deepening curiosity, and guides participants through exercises.

Scott Shigeoka is a Fellow at UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center. His work blends science, storytelling, and lived experience to help people strengthen relationships, foster understanding, and build well-being. His popular TED Talk received a standing ovation, and he has been featured on the Today Show, PBS, the *Harvard Business Review*, and *The New York Times*.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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

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

Sun
2 - 3:30 pm

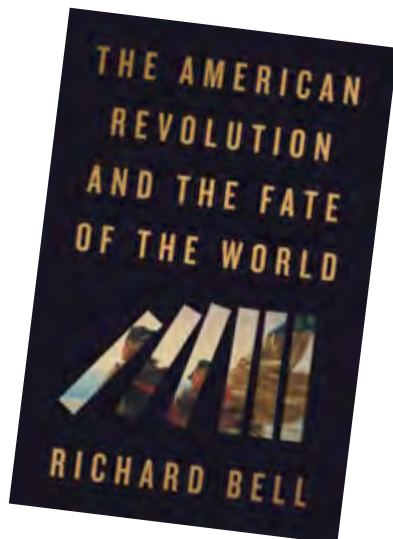
Nov 9
Miller

For adults.

Register at bit.ly/Author-Bell-AmRev

"Lucid and expansive, Richard Bell's book presents vivid characters who reveal the global stage and stakes of a revolution that was American and much more."—Alan Taylor, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *American Revolutions: A Continental History*

Dr. Richard Bell discusses his new book, a fascinating and unfamiliar recasting of America's war of independence as a transformative international event. The American Revolution was not only the colonies' triumphant liberation from the rule of an overbearing England; it was also a cataclysm that pulled in participants from around the globe and threw the entire world order into chaos.



Repositioning the Revolution at the center of an international web, this narrative history ranges far afield. As our lens widens, the "War of Independence" manifests itself as a sprawling struggle that upended the lives of millions of people on every continent and fundamentally transformed the way the world works.

The American Revolution and the Fate of the World conveys the impact of these developments at home and abroad by grounding its narrative in the gripping stories of individuals. The result is an unforgettable new perspective on America's founding fight that shifts everything we thought we knew about our creation story.

Dr. Richard Bell received a BA from the University of Cambridge and a Ph.D from Harvard University. He holds tenure as a full professor in the Department of History at the University of Maryland. He has published four books and more than a dozen articles and book chapters. His major research fellowships include Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress. Dr. Bell is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.



Required Reading: Texts for Change

For adults. Registration required at bit.ly/Required-Reading-ERCC

This quarterly book club of the HCLS Equity Resource Center & Collection is designed for people who are curious and committed to equity. The club explores three nonfiction books each year plus a summer fiction title. Together, we'll engage with texts that challenge assumptions, introduce new frameworks, and spark deeper reflection about equity. This isn't about having all the answers; it's about reading with intention, sitting with complexity, and learning together in community.

Mon Nov 10 7 - 8:30 pm online

Reading: *Seek: How Curiosity Can Transform Your Life and Change the World* by Scott Shigeoka

The Gathering at the ERCC

For adults. Register for each session at bit.ly/ERCC-Gathering.

Part community conversation, part creative recharge, 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. 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.

Thursdays; 6 - 7:30 pm Central

Nov 6 Voices Carry, co-hosted by Jonathan McKinney

Dec 4 Story Circles, co-hosted by Min Woo

Virtually Travel the World through Art Museums... and Bring the Museum Home

by Emily Bell, Central Branch

Starting this December, you can join fabulous docent Lee Rubinstein on a virtual journey through four of the world's most interesting museums. If you haven't had the chance to attend one of Lee's virtual museum classes, they're a real treat - equally informative and fun! With your HCLS library card, you can bring the museum art home by borrowing framed artwork from Central and Glenwood Branches.

The first stop on the virtual museum tour is the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the largest art museum in the Netherlands, home to many works from the Dutch Golden Age. This period of "great artistic achievement" spanned about sixty years in the 17th century, halted by the onset of the Franco-Dutch War in 1672. In fact, the amount of art produced was so plentiful that the cost to own art was lower. During this period, there was a decline in demand for religious art and increased interest in portraits, still lifes, and "genre painting" or depictions of everyday life.

Johannes Vermeer, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Pieter de Hooch are three prominent Dutch Golden Age artists, and you can borrow prints of their paintings from the HCLS Art Education Collection. Johannes Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, perhaps one of the most famous paintings from the Dutch Golden Age, is an example of a "tronie." Unlike traditional portraits, tronie featured a head or profile but were more interested in portraying human emotions or condition, rather than a specific person in time. The Girl's identity is unknown, which adds a layer of mystery to the striking painting.

Pieter de Hooch's *The Bedroom* is a particularly stunning example of the "genre painting." Offering a glimpse into Dutch domestic life, a mother tends to household chores as her child playfully enters the room. Natural light filters in through large windows, adding a sense of warmth to this intimate scene.

This is just a taste of what you can expect from the virtual tours. Lee's art history expertise and insight will extend beyond the Dutch Golden Age art featured in The Rijksmuseum. You'll also explore the modern art of the Guggenheim in Bilbao, delve into the decorative arts on view at London's Victoria & Albert Museum, and explore 3,500 years of glassmaking via the Corning Museum of Glass in Upstate New York. It's a virtual series not to be missed!

Museum@TheLibrary Series: Museums Across the World

For adults. Register at bit.ly/museums-world

Docent Lee Rubinstein takes us on a world tour over four sessions. Museums can be intimidating. After all, you can't run, yell, eat, or touch anything. But they are treasure houses of some of the most beautiful, confusing, and interesting art you'll ever see. Explore museums you may not have visited and engage in conversations about art.

In this museum world tour, we look at four completely different kinds of museums, starting with the **Rijksmuseum** in Amsterdam. It houses one of the largest collections of art from the Dutch Golden Age.

Then we travel across the English Channel to the **Victoria and Albert** in London where we'll explore its decorative arts collection, from furniture to jewelry to costumes to underwear.

Our next stop is the **Guggenheim** in Bilbao, Spain. It houses an extraordinary collection of modern and contemporary art in a building that has a fascinating story.

We finish up a bit closer to home with the **Corning Museum of Glass** in New York, which has 3,500 years of glass, from ancient civilizations to the modern art pieces glassmakers are creating today.

2nd Mondays
3 - 4 pm

Dec 8, Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9
online

Senior Planet: Virtual Museum Tours

For adults. Register at bit.ly/46sc5oR

Tour world famous museums from the comfort of your home! Did you know many of the world's leading museums have been making their collections and exhibits available to view virtually? Explore some of these virtual galleries, as well as digital tools that help bring art, architecture, and history to life. Provided by Senior Planet from AARP.

Mon

Nov 3

10 - 11 am

Glenwood

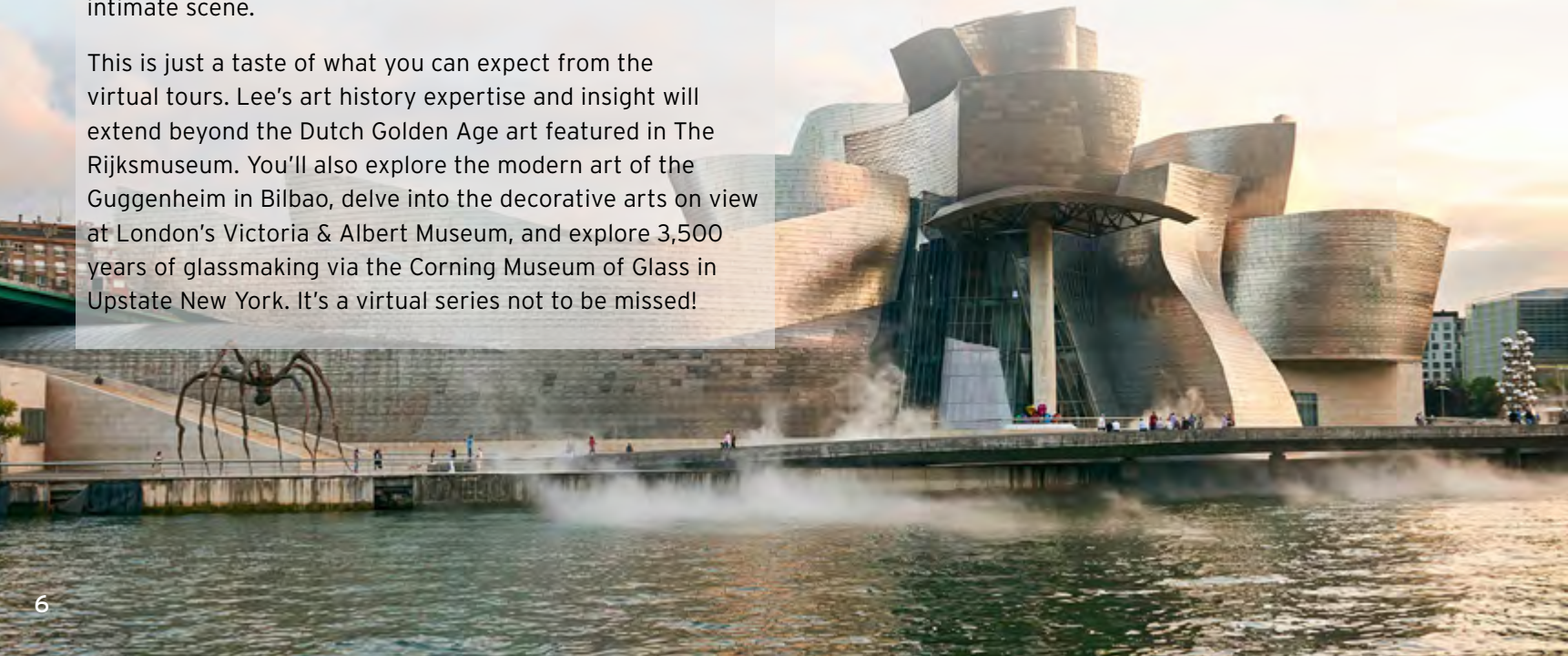


Chart Your Next Adventure at HCLS

by Sahana Callahan, Administrative Branch

The days are steadily getting colder, which means that I set my sights on warmer times ahead. The winter, being bundled up, is the perfect time to dream up trips to (warmer) bucket-list destinations, and we can help get you there.

With Passport Centers at our East Columbia and Glenwood Branches, the Library is your one stop shop for all your passport questions.

Our staff guide you through the process, take photos on-site, and help ensure you're ready for smooth sailing when departure day arrives – and you get to browse for your next great beach read all at the same time. The Passport Center makes it convenient to fit travel planning into your schedule. No appointment necessary – but if you go somewhere spectacular, feel free to show us a picture or two.

Of course, the library can take you places even before your boarding pass is printed. From language-learning tools like Mango Languages, to travel guides, memoirs, and novels set around the world, HCLS offers countless ways to explore from home while you prepare for your journey. With an expansive travel section at each branch, we can guarantee you'll be prepared for whatever adventure you're looking for.

World Languages Café

Ages 13 and up. Registration is preferred but not required at bit.ly/WLC_2025

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.

We continually recruit community volunteers who are native or fluent speakers to host language tables. To get involved, email Diane.Li@hclibrary.org or call 410.924.2226.

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

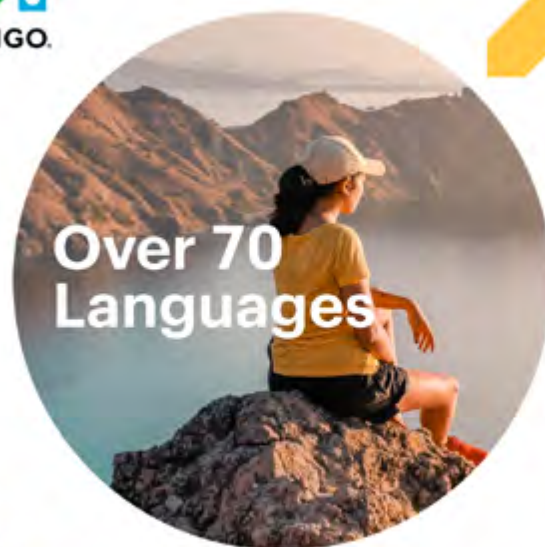
In partnership with Columbia Association



And speaking of adventures: this year, our annual gala sets sail on that very spirit of adventure. Evening in the Stacks Sets Sail invites you aboard for an unforgettable night of celebration and impact on February 28 at our East Columbia Branch. You'll embark on the S.S. *Readership* for an unforgettable night of coastal-inspired cuisine, cocktails, dancing, and dazzling surprises – all in support of HCLS' early literacy programs and resources. Just as a cruise charts a course to new horizons, your support helps the library open doors of opportunity and discovery for thousands in our community.

Whether your next stop is the Passport Center, a travel book, or our gala dance floor, we invite you to embark with us. Winter may bring chilly winds, but the library is here to help you imagine – and prepare for – sunny horizons ahead.

Learn a new language!



Learn or practice a new language with a free Mango account via hclibrary.org.

Staff Spotlight: Brandon Bannister

Customer Service Specialist
HCLS Central Branch

How long have you been with HCLS:

I have been with HCLS for 22 wonderful years.

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

I love the opportunity to assist community members either at the Customer Service Desk or over the phone with questions and concerns about resources and other library related issues. I also love writing for the *source* magazine and participating in many great HCLS events.

How are you involved in the community?

I am a volunteer for a local nonprofit, Perfect Generation Ministries, where we serve Maryland and individuals across United States and as far as Africa with food giveaways, and assistance with rental and housing concerns. We also have an annual Wear Orange event that takes place the first Saturday in June to honor all violent gun victims. I am also a part of the parking lot ministry at Bridgeway Community Church, assisting church attendees with finding parking spaces while maintaining safety.

Favorite movie or show?

My favorite movie is *Coming to America* because I loved how it showcased the brilliance of Eddie Murphy portraying multiple characters.

My favorite show is *Jeopardy*. It has special meaning because I used to watch it with my parents who passed away. My family would compete to see how many questions each of us would get right.

What's an unusual fact about you?

The Baltimore Sun interviewed me when I went to the movies during the pandemic. I told the reporter that one of the things that I missed about going to the theatre was eating movie butter popcorn and Skittles, while enjoying the overall experience.

Favorite sport and/or sports team?

My favorite sport to watch is football, and my favorite team is the Baltimore Ravens. I used to work at my friend's concession stand at M & T stadium for Ravens home games, which was a lot of fun.



Favorite type of music?

I listen to gospel music for inspiration and spiritual motivation when life gets tough. I love Hip Hop music including artists such as: Nas, the late Notorious B.I.G., and A Tribe Called Quest. I love listening to jazz because it reminds me of my late father.

Favorite time of year?

I love spring because the weather is not too hot or cold but just right in the middle.

What book is currently on your nightstand?

I love to read the Bible because it provides guidance and wisdom from the word of God.

If you could be a superhero, who would you be?

If I could be a superhero, I would be Superman because he can fly. I love to travel, so I would not spend money on airfare.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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



Author Works: H.P. Shreve & *The Long Blue Shadow*

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

Shreve discusses her new historical novel, *The Long Blue Shadow*, which captures the spirit of the Interwar years through the eyes of Arthur Shreve, a principled and ambitious young man drawn to military service. With rich prose, cinematic detail, and layered emotional depth, the novel paints a vivid portrait of life, family, and duty in the aftermath of the Great War.

Thu Dec 4 6 - 7 pm Miller

Veterans Day at the Library

by Brandon Bannister, Central Branch

Every November 11, our nation honors the brave men and women of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and National Guard who have sacrificed for the well-being of our country. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day, recognizing the service of all who have worn the uniform—both in times of war and peace. From the annual Army vs. Navy football game and local parades to a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, America continues to express its deep gratitude to our armed forces.

HCLS is profoundly thankful for the courage and commitment of our veterans and active-duty military members, whose sacrifices help keep our world safe. Whether you are currently serving, a veteran, or simply interested in learning more about the military, your library is here to support you. HCLS offers a wide range of books, resources, and events designed to meet your research, educational, and entertainment needs.

In our Equity Resource Collection at the Central Branch, you can explore the powerful stories of historic African American service members, including the Buffalo Soldiers, the Six Triple Eight, and the Tuskegee Airmen. Looking to connect with others who have served? Keep an out for the upcoming Veterans Book Club, launching in February 2026 at HCLS Central Branch, for monthly Sunday gatherings and engaging discussions.

You can read inspiring biographies of distinguished leaders such as General Colin Powell, General Norman Schwarzkopf, and Senator John McCain, or enjoy military-themed films with family and friends, including *Saving Private Ryan*, *Glory*, *The Hurt Locker*, *American Sniper*, and *Miracle at St. Anna*.

This Veterans Day, we proudly salute the courage, sacrifice, and enduring service of all who have served our nation.

Lullaby Project: Veterans Songwriting Program

For veterans & service members. For more information about the schedule and location, and to register, visit bit.ly/Veterans-songs

Project runs November 14 - January 17

The Lullaby Project offers veterans, service members, and their families the opportunity to take part in a songwriting workshop with Grammy-winning songwriters. Participants have the option to either write a Lullaby for children or grandchildren, a song for a spouse or a special someone in your life or in honor of a fellow service member, or write a song to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary in 2026. No musical knowledge or experience needed.

In partnership with Baltimore Classical Guitar Society presents, which has created over 100 songs with parents, grandparents and veterans.

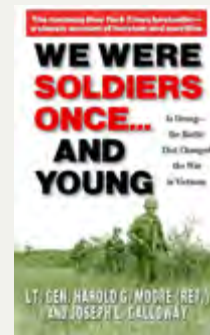
In collaboration with Carnegie Hall, Weill Music Institute

History Relived: The Battle Of Ia Drang, 1965

For adults. Register at bit.ly/4mpESAB

The battle of Ia Drang was the first major battle between the US Army and the Peoples Army of Vietnam, PAVN, as well as the first battle to use a large-scale helicopter assault and B-52 in a tactical assault role. The battle was the basis of the book *We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young: Ia Drang, the Battle that Changed the War in Vietnam* by Joseph Galloway. Join an informal discussion of the events and how they impacted history and the future.

Tue Nov 4 11 am - 12 pm Glenwood



Veterans Candlemaking Workshop

For veterans and active-duty service members. Register at bit.ly/VeteranCandleWorkshop

Creativity meets relaxation as you create candle. Presented by Toni Nicole, founder and owner of Me Time Coffee and active-duty service member.

Wed Dec 3 6 - 7:30 pm Elkridge

Hey...Want to Play?

by Jean Boone, Central Branch

As Thanksgiving and the winter holidays approach, food planning, cooking, and eating often take center stage. But there's much more to the holiday season than food! After the turkey's been eaten and between the football games, feed your family's togetherness with a game.

Consider this: you can begin a new holiday game tradition at home and be part of something bigger - **National Game and Puzzle Week, November 23-29**. When the holidays bring together multiple generations, it's a perfect opportunity to share classic board and card game favorites or teach something brand new - to build a giant jigsaw puzzle or combine brain power to solve an escape room challenge.

Games and puzzles may be simple joys but playing together brings a wealth of benefits - boosting cognitive well-being, problem-solving skills, math learning, and communication. It's also an opportunity to practice patience, empathy and teamwork, or to exercise our more competitive impulses with only paper money or cardboard kingdoms at stake!

Inspired to launch a family game tradition this winter? The library can be your launchpad. Embrace the joy, connection, and discovery: let's play!

Math Games: Mancala

Ages 8-11. Free ticket required.

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

Sat Nov 8 2 - 2:45 pm Elkridge

Problem Solvers

Ages 6-8 and 9-11. Free ticket required.

Participate in hands-on games, activities, puzzles, and creative projects that build math skills and vocabulary along with confidence and teamwork.

Wednesdays Nov 12, Dec 10 Central
5 - 5:45 pm for ages 6-8
6 - 6:45 pm for ages 9-11

Math Tales

Ages 5-7, independently. Free ticket required.

Explore mathematical concepts through stories, games, and hands-on activities while meeting new friends.

Wed Dec 10 5:30 - 6:15 pm Savage

Seasonal Puzzle Swap

Ages 8-11. Free ticket required.

Hosted throughout the year, swaps are a great way to refresh your own collection, get new games and puzzles as your needs change, and share the joy of your favorites with others. Bring your gently-used puzzles and swap them for something new-to-you. No puzzle to trade? No problem-you're still welcome to browse and take one home!

Sat Dec 13 11 am - 1 pm Miller



learn grow *connect*

hclibrary.org

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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



Connecting with Dungeons & Dragons

by Julia Marks and Paige Sullivan, Teen Instructors

What stemmed from a happenstance conversation in Summer 2023 with a group of teens asking for help with creating D&D characters grew into a long-term staple of teen programming at Glenwood Branch.

The first official meeting of the Glenwood D&D Club happened that September, when three students attended. I taught them how to play Dungeons & Dragons, but they were the ones who became fast friends, wove stories together, and welcomed new teens into the group over the span of the next six months. By the end of the school year, we had a group of six students meeting together every other Monday night to play the game and collaborate.

Teens love the welcoming environment, the lively atmosphere, and the opportunity to create and tell stories together where they can all play the hero. D&D is the perfect combination of a board game and a tale woven beside a flickering fire – each person contributes equally toward a collaborative, heroic adventure, the only limit of which is your own imagination.

By the end of Summer 2024, 15 to 20 teens were regularly attending. Not only that, but two of the recurring students worked with me to plan games for their peers and were running their games concurrently. We were now playing three D&D games simultaneously in our largest meeting room every other Monday night and had expanded the time to 90 minutes. With the teens recruiting their friends and neighbors, our almost entirely teen-run club continued to see an influx of new players even as the school year began and schedules shifted.

The group continued to flourish as the school year went on. We celebrated birthdays, finished complete storylines and began new ones, introduced new characters and challenges, and celebrated the group's first anniversary.



Currently, the Glenwood D&D Club is still going strong. Teens continue to come to Glenwood excited and ready to see how their character's stories will unfold. The fun doesn't stop at Glenwood! In fact, D&D has found a home at the Central, Miller, Savage, and East Columbia branches, giving teens opportunities to play tabletop roleplaying games and build connections with one another.

Tabletop Gaming Paradise

For everyone. Register at bit.ly/tabletop-ECO

Gamers enjoy an evening of thrilling dice rolls and dire card draws. Explore our tabletop games collection or bring your own to share. Whether you have no experience or you are a tabletop min-maxer, this event is perfect for you!

Thursdays
6 - 7:45 pm

Nov 20; Dec 4 & 18
East Columbia

Glenwood D&D Club

Mondays
6:30 pm

Nov 10 & 24; Dec 8 & 22
Glenwood

Teen Dungeons & Dragons

Sat	Nov 22	1:30 pm	Central
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Arts & Crafts for all ages

Creators, Crafters, and Coworkers

For adults. Register at bit.ly/CreateCraftCowork

Take some time to tackle an old project you've gotten into a rut with or gain some fresh perspective on new passions. Come alone or with others to work on personal projects while meeting other like-minded folks. Some craft supplies provided. All skill and ability levels welcome.

Mondays Nov 3, 10, 17 & 24
5:30 - 7:30 pm Savage

Art in the Evening: Fall Painting

For adults. Register at bit.ly/46Plfgw

Enjoy a relaxing evening of art and celebrate the season by painting an autumn scene.

Tue Nov 4 6 - 7:30 pm Elkridge

Fall Into the Enchanted Garden

Ages 4-6 with adult. Free ticket required.

Roll up your sleeves to plant some cold weather crops and help put the Enchanted Garden to bed for the winter.

Wed Nov 5 2 - 3 pm Miller

Advanced Anime Association

For adults. Learn more at bit.ly/AdvancedAnime

Because anime and manga aren't just for kids... stop by to geek out about anime, manga, and all things related with like-minded people who are of a similar advanced age. Costumes welcome (don't be shy!) and feel free to bring cool things to show off.

Thursdays Nov 6 & Dec 4
6 - 7:30 pm Savage

Improv Comedy for Everyone

For adults. Register at bit.ly/3W3qjaU

Learn the basics of comedy improvisation through games and collaborative storytelling. Everything is made up on the spot. It's all fun and games, but side effects may include increased confidence, boosted mood, and improved public speaking skills. No experience required.

Sat Nov 8 1 - 2:30 pm Savage

Creativity Club: Paper Quilling

Grades 4-5. Free ticket required.

Imagine, invent, and create! Learn about the traditional, decorative art form of paper quilling and create an emoji.

Wed Nov 12 4:30 - 5 pm Miller

Crafty Collection Highlights

For Adults

Brooklyn Tweed's Knit & Crochet Blankets: Projects to Stitch for Home and Away by Jared Flood

Find more than 20 patterns for making the perfect blanket or afghan. What could be more delightful than cuddling up under a handmade blanket?

Artisan Air-Dry Clay: The Beginner's Guide to Easy, Inexpensive & Stylish No-Kiln Pottery by Radka Hostašová

No kiln? No problem! Learn to make beautifully textured home décor accents with inexpensive air-dry clay.



The Museum of Lost Quilts by Jennifer Chiaverini

Enjoy a warm and deeply moving story about the power of collective memory. With every quilt she studies, Summer finds her passion for history renewed – and discovers a promising new future for herself.

With all Her Heart by Kelly Irvin

Bonnie is successful in her crafts shop but fears no man will see past her disability to her strong and loving heart. Elijah dreams of leaving the family business to focus on his carvings. Can they find a new path together?

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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

Autumn Nature Crafts

Families. Allow 20-30 min. Free ticket required.

Drop in and make a variety of crafts with natural materials, such as pressed fall leaves and acorns. Learn why leaves change color and how to identify local trees in the process.

Sat Nov 15 11:30 am - 1 pm Savage

Craft Supply Swap

For everyone. Participants under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Learn more at bit.ly/3Kj1LIm

Ready to pick up a new craft or de-clutter your stash? Drop by with craft supplies in good condition to share or pick up new-to-you supplies. You do not have to bring supplies to participate.

Sun Nov 16 2 - 3:30 pm Central

Loop Troop: Teen Crochet Club

For teens. Registration recommended.

Crochet and meet other crafty teens when you bring a project from home or get help starting a new one. No crochet experience required.

Some crochet hooks and yarn available, but you are welcome to bring your own materials.

Thu Nov 20 6 - 7:30 pm Glenwood

Birdsgiving Wreaths

For adults. Register at bit.ly/48shn6k

Meet other bird enthusiasts and make birdseed wreaths. Connect with nature in your backyard while giving back this season. The local birds will be so thankful!

Sat Nov 22 2:30 - 3:30 pm Central

Beaded Bracelets

For teens & adults. Register at bit.ly/4nKtGiZ

Enjoy a relaxing evening of crafting and create unique jewelry pieces to keep or give as gifts.

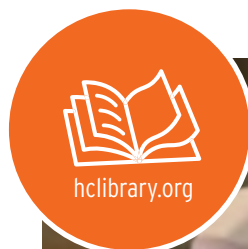
Tue Nov 25 6 - 7:30 pm Elkridge

Art in the Afternoon: Winter Workshop

For adults. Register at bit.ly/4qwROD8

Celebrate the season with a selection of winter-themed art and craft projects.

Wed Dec 3 1:30 - 3 pm Elkridge



For Children & Teens

Winter Crafts Across Cultures: 12 Projects to Celebrate the Season by Megan Borgert-Spaniol

Winter is a season of celebration! Join the fun with thirteen festive crafts that celebrate holidays from around the world.

Celebrate with Me!: Recipes, Crafts, and Holiday Fun from Around the World

Celebrate at the tables of artists, designers, and chefs. Families can share in a world of parties, festivals, and holidays through the step-by-step recipes and a crafts.

Stitch Camp: 18 Crafty Projects for Kids & Tweens - Learn 6 All-time Favorite Skills: Sew, Knit, Crochet, Felt, Embroider and Weave

This modern guide teaches the creative pleasure of knowing how to sew, knit, crochet, embroider, weave, and felt.

Crochet Zodiac Dolls: Stitch the Horoscope with Astrological Amigurumi by Carla Mitrani

Crochet the zodiac with these patterns for amigurumi horoscope dolls - the perfect present for all astrology lovers.



For Native American Heritage Month

Uhwachi-Reh Dance Troupe

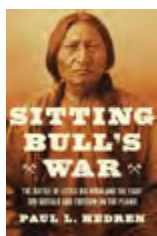
All ages.

Celebrate Native and Indigenous Heritage Month with a performance by Uhwachi-Reh Native American Dance Troupe! Accompanied with traditional song, the group performs dances that reflect Native cultural traditions and history. Come learn, connect, and celebrate the continued contributions that Native and Indigenous communities make to art, culture, and community life.

In partnership with Carroll Baldwin Hall

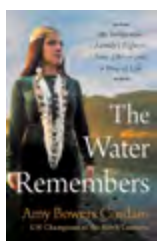
Thu Nov 6 6:30 - 7:30 pm Carroll Baldwin Hall | 9035 Baltimore St, Savage

For Adults



Sitting Bull's War: The Battle of Little Big Horn and the Fight for Buffalo and Freedom on the Plains by Paul L. Hedren

The dramatic story of the Battle of Little Big Horn is told from perspective of the Lakota and the Northern Cheyenne, as they fight for their way of life.



The Water Remembers: My Indigenous Family's Fight to Save a River and a Way of Life by Amy Bowers Cordalis

A moving multigenerational memoir of Indigenous resistance, environmental justice, and a Yurok family's fight to protect their legacy and the Klamath River.



The Mighty Red by Louise Erdrich

As with every book this great modern master writes, this novel is about our tattered bond with the earth, and about love in all of its absurdity and splendor.



Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology

A bold, clever, and sublimely sinister collection of horror, fantasy, science fiction, and gritty crime by both new and established Indigenous authors dares to ask the question: Are you ready to be un-settled?



The Heartbeat Drum: the Story of Carol Powder, Cree Drummer and Activist by Deidre Havrelock

Whenever young Carol sang along to her family's music, her heart felt light and full of joy. Powerfully written and joyfully illustrated, this story is a radiant celebration of preserving Indigenous traditions, finding your voice, and speaking out.



Stealing Little Moon: The Legacy of the American Indian Boarding Schools by Dan SaSuWeh Jones

Dan SaSuWeh Jones brings to light the forced assimilation and cultural erasure of Indigenous people by government-run residential schools with first-person accounts that breaks down the truth of America's hidden past.



Ours to Tell: Reclaiming Indigenous Stories by Eldon Yellowhorn

This anthology shines a light on untold Indigenous stories as chronicled by Indigenous creators. Each profile is accompanied by rich visuals, from archival photos to contemporary art. *Ours to Tell* brilliantly spotlights Indigenous life, past and present, through an Indigenous lens.



This Indian Kid: A Native American Memoir by Eddie Chuculate

Award-winning author Eddie Chuculate brings his childhood to life with spare, unflinching prose. This book is at once a love letter to his Native American roots and an inspiring and essential message for young readers everywhere, who are coming of age in an era when conversations about acceptance and empathy, love and perspective are more necessary than ever.

connect

How the Yaocomaco Lived

Ages 5-10. Registration required.

Celebrate National Native American Heritage Month! Learn about how Maryland's native people lived before the colonists arrived. Excavate like an archaeologist to find 'artifacts' and use them to learn about the Yaocomaco tribe.

Sat Nov 1 11:30 am - 12:15 pm Savage

Family Story and Craft: Julie Flett Felt Animals

Families, ages 6 & up. Free ticket required.

Listen to a story and work together on fun crafts and activities. Celebrate Native American and Indigenous People's Heritage Month with *We All Play = Kimêtaŵânaw* by Cree-Métis author Julie Flett, then create adorable felt animals inspired by the creatures in the story.

Tue Nov 18 6:30 - 7 pm Miller

Thankful Turkeys

Ages 2-5 with adult. Free ticket required.

Enjoy stories and songs that celebrate gratitude. Share what you're thankful for and make a turkey craft.

Mon Nov 24 10 - 10:45 am Savage

Celebrating Native American Authors

Ages 5 -11. Free ticket required.

Celebrate and explore indigenous-led conservation movements, learn about the water cycle, and discover actions to protect one of earth's greatest resources.

Mon Nov 24 6 - 6:30 pm East Columbia



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learn *grow* connect

learn

Memory Cafe @ Miller

For adults. Register at bit.ly/millermemorycafe

The Memory Cafe provides a warm, inclusive space for individuals living with memory loss, their caregivers, and family members. Designed to promote connection, fun, and mental engagement, each monthly session features a mix of gentle memory exercises, themed reminiscence activities, music, art, conversation, and/or storytelling. Caregivers must stay with participants.

Mondays Nov 3 & Dec 1
2 - 4 pm Miller

Repair Cafe

For adults. Register at bit.ly/4mwFXX3

Do you have a bike in need of a tune-up? An electric lamp that doesn't work, or an idea for making one from scratch? If you are interested in how things work, or have a favorite item that needs repair, join us to see what's possible. Volunteers evaluate and fix as many of them as they can and offer their expertise on items that are too large or not possible to bring in. Instead of throwing away broken items, bring them to a Repair Cafe where volunteers do their best to give them a new life.

Sat Nov 8 1 - 4 pm Miller

Cookbook Corner

For adults. Register at bit.ly/eco_cookbookcorner

Explore various culinary cuisines/chefs of the world with a new theme every month. Borrow a topic-related cookbook, try some recipes, and have a culinary discussion.

Wednesdays; 6:30 - 7:30 pm East Columbia
Nov 19 soups
Dec 17 holiday desserts

How to Start Seeds in a Milk Jug

For adults. Register at bit.ly/47VBZ70

A terrific method for sowing seeds early can be accomplished using the "winter sowing method." It is easily done by sowing seeds in a milk jug that becomes a mini greenhouse. Bring a clean gallon-sized translucent milk jug.

Tue Dec 2 6:30 - 7:30 pm Miller

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holiday baking

For Adults

Comfort Bakes by Paul Hollywood, Prue Leith & the Bakers from The Great British Baking Show

Paul, Prue, and the 2024 bakers explore comfort in all its forms in these delectable, warm, cozy recipes.

Baking and the Meaning of Life: How to Find Joy in 100 Recipes by Helen Goh

A one-of-a-kind companion that bakers can return to again and again to spread joy, one cookie, cake, or cheese puff at a time.

Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame by Olivia Ford

A huge-hearted, redemptive coming-of-old-age tale, a love story, and an ode to good food.

Sweetness in the Skin by Ishi Robinson

In this funny and heartbreaking debut novel, a young teenage girl in Jamaica is determined to bake her way out of her dysfunctional family and into the opportunity of a lifetime.

For Children & Teens

Holiday Recipes in 15 Minutes or Less by Tamara J. M. Peterson

Looking to celebrate the holidays with quick and delicious recipes? Become a 15-minute foodie! Assemble a cute marshmallow puffed rice turkey to celebrate Thanksgiving. Make latkes out of hashbrowns to commemorate Hanukkah.

The Big Book of Baking for Kids: Favorite Recipes to Make & Share from American Girl

Discover treats, snacks, and desserts for every taste and occasion. This compilation has something for every skill level and includes a delicious variety of cookies, cakes, tarts, brownies, pies, and more.

The Baking Cookbook for Teens: 75 Delicious Recipes for Sweet & Savory Treats by Robin Donovan

Introduces you to fundamental cooking concepts and offers a fun mix of 75 delicious recipes.

Frosting & Icing Workshop: Decorating Desserts by Megan Borgert-Spaniol

This how-to book provides readers with information they need to get started on a career in dessert decorating.



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seasons & celebrations

Frosty the Snowman at Savage Branch

Families. Free ticket required.

Bring your camera! Enjoy stories and activities, then pose for a picture with Frosty.

Tue Dec 2 10:30 - 11 am & 7 - 7:30 pm

Wed-Fri Dec 3, 4 & 5 10:30 - 11 am

Jan Brett's *The Mitten*: Story and Dramatic Play

Ages 6-10. Free ticket required.

Cozy up and celebrate the winter season with Jan Brett's classic adaptation of Ukrainian Folktale, *The Mitten*. Act out the story, then make a craft.

Tue Dec 9 4:30 - 5:15 pm Central



Misako Ballet Presents: Holiday Dance Party

Families. Free ticket required.

Celebrate the winter season with music and dance. Misako Ballet Company performs ballet pieces featuring ballet dance with a Japanese twist. Young children in the audience invited to learn a quick piece and perform it - a great opportunity to expose children to the art of dance.

Sat Dec 13 3 - 4 pm Miller

The Longest Night

Families (Children under age 7 with adult). Free ticket required.

Listen to a story about the winter solstice and create a small lantern craft.

Sat Dec 20 10:30 - 11:15 am East Columbia

Ukulele Holiday Jam

Ages 7 & up with adult. Free ticket required.

Sing in the holidays with the ukulele. Bring your own or borrow one of ours. Other simple instruments will be provided if you want to play them and sing along.

Mon Dec 29 3 - 4 pm Miller

Gun safety locks are now available at all HCLS branches, free of charge and while supplies last. Residents of Howard County who are 18 or older can request up to two locks per day.

Each lock includes two keys, instructions, and a bookmark with a QR code that links to additional resources online.

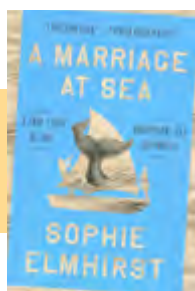


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BEST BOOKS OF 2025



For Adults

King of Ashes by S. A. Cosby

This Southern crime epic and family drama stars Roman Carruthers. He is an eldest son, summoned home after his father's car accident to find his younger brother Dante in debt to dangerous criminals and his sister Neveah exhausted from holding the family – and the family business – together.

A Marriage at Sea: A True Story of Love, Obsession, and Shipwreck by Sophie Elmhirst

An adrenaline-fueled high seas adventure paired with a gutting love story asks why we love difficult people, and who we become under the most extreme conditions imaginable.

One Golden Summer by Carley Fortune

"Good things happen at the lake," according to Alice's grandmother. It's where she took that photo, the one of three grinning teenagers in a yellow speedboat, the image that changed her life.

The Names by Florence Knapp

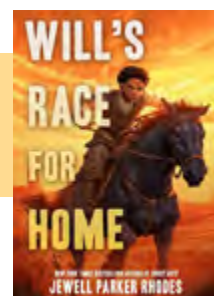
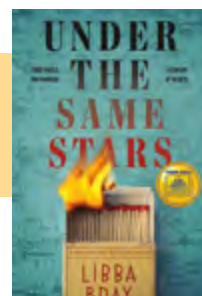
Can a name shape the course of a life? This debut novel's brilliantly imaginative structure and storytelling, and the emotional, gut-wrenching power of the book itself, are certain to make it a modern classic.

The Last Manager: How Earl Weaver Tricked, Tormented, and Reinvented Baseball by John W. Miller

The first major biography of legendary Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver is a wild, thrilling, and hilarious ride with baseball's most underappreciated genius, and one of its greatest characters.

The Emperor of Gladness by Ocean Vuong

Vuong's new novel shows the profound ways in which love, labor, and loneliness form the bedrock of American life. It is a story of loss, hope, and how far we would go to possess one of life's most fleeting mercies: a second chance.



For Children & Teens

How Sweet the Sound by Kwame Alexander

Come dance to Kwame Alexander's melodious narrative of the history of Black music in America, accompanied by the vibrant illustrations of Charly Palmer.

Let's Be Bees by Shawn Harris

Father and child become buzzing bees, rustling trees, and more in this delightful make-believe romp from Caldecott Honor winner Shawn Harris.

Firefly Song: Lynn Frierson Faust and the Great Smoky Mountain Discovery by Colleen Paeff

This nonfiction picture book shows how one woman proved to scientists that the fireflies she had watched as a child put on dazzling, synchronous nighttime performances.

Rebellion 1776 by Laurie Halse Anderson

Set in 1776, this is the story of thirteen-year-old Elsbeth, who struggles to find her missing father amidst the smallpox epidemic sweeping across Boston during the American revolution.

Under the Same Stars by Libba Bray

Three timelines converge to unveil the mysterious disappearance of two girls during World War II.

Will's Race for Home by Jewell Parker Rhodes

During the land rush of 1889, African American Will and his father journey from Texas to Oklahoma, racing thousands of others to stake their claim.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:

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

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 Jul 1 - August 31, 2025. Please call 410.313.7799 to report any errors or omissions.

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In memory of Kathleen S.
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