

## **The Citizen**

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### **Citizens and Advocacy**

**Citizens For Maryland Libraries (CML)** needs Friends of Libraries, trustees and library lovers to become members of CML and be the voice of library advocacy. Maryland's libraries rank among the best, and our advocates receive national honors. Just one example, reported in the previous issue of CML, Nettie Taylor was made an honorary member of the American Library Association.

The following report from Margaret Carty, Executive Director of MLA, is a testament to the importance of advocacy and the role of citizens in helping to support our libraries.

\*\*\*The Carter Library & Information Resource Center ( DNR Library ) which opened in 1998, with Cecilia Petro as librarian, was slated for closure because of lack of funding. With the announcement of the closure, Cecilia accepted another position, but continued her advocacy for the continuation of this important research-based institution. Now, due in part to Cecilia's efforts, the library will remain open.

Through rallying great support, the following advocacy initiatives were taken: surveys of the library's usage, support and actions from DNR staff, testimonies from the Law Librarians Association, Marion Francis (AACPL), Cecelia herself and from Nick Parker, for whom the library is named. Maryland Library Association also sent letters of support. Delegate John Leopold, a true champion of libraries, must be recognized for the key role he played in this effort. Please extend our thanks to him if you get the opportunity, and also congratulate Cecelia on how her perseverance kept a library open!

Congratulations to three Marylanders who have been named to the National Advocacy Honor Roll, sponsored by ALTA/ALA. They are David Goldsmith, Baltimore County Public Library; Doris Jackson, Anne Arundel County Public Library; Mike Rindskopf, Anne Arundel County Public Library. The three are noteworthy advocates who have devoted many years to their local library community and to Maryland public libraries.

Legislation - all good news - House Bill 200 and Senate Bill 421 have been passed without a dissenting vote anywhere in the process. The bill has gone to the Governor's office and we are awaiting the final word on signing. The Governor will be signing bills on April 26, May 10 and May 26. It's not final until it is signed, but it's looking good! Mary Baykan needs to be singled out for her foresight, vigilance and outstanding leadership in seeing this effort to fruition. Thank you, Mary!

### **U Create Film Festival**

Kathleen O'Connell, Washington County Free Library

Western Maryland Public Libraries, Washington County Free Library and the Hagerstown Community College Library hosted a festival of original films made by area filmmakers at the Hagerstown Community College on February 26, 2005.

There was a call for films in September 2004. By December, many submissions were received. Criteria were simple: film could be any genre, needed to be 10 minutes or less and in DVD or VHS format. With new software and equipment, people can make a professional looking movie with products that are readily available and easy to use. Received was a mixture of fiction, documentary and experimental products from a diverse group consisting of middle school and college students, professionals and people who just love movies.

The goal of the project was to showcase local film makers. It was not a competition, but a way for film makers who live in the western Maryland region to create a product and get some exposure. Over 100 people attended the event: filmmakers, actors, producers, family and friends.

Attendees learned about the Wright Brothers, saw life from the point of view of a quarter and viewed a 10 minute experience in horror, a la *The Blair Witch Project*. Mark Sober, Enoch Pratt librarian and film expert, gave a presentation and facilitated the question and answer part of the program. He stated that the films were as good as those he views at similar festivals in Baltimore, offering encouragement to the filmmakers and provided the audience with information on the life of an independent filmmaker. The project turned out to be fun, thus showing the community another side of libraries.

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This article was sent to The Citizen by Michael Osborne, the book appraiser who was mentioned in the text and a member of the CML Board.

Local library features book appraisal program

Sunday March 20, 2005

By Marie Gilbert/Staff Writer

Doug Cochran was a soldier in Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army when he came across an interesting find. Sorting through debris in a bombed-out house in Germany, a soldier in

his unit picked up a book, glanced at the cover and threw it across the room. Cochran picked up the book, took one look inside and decided to keep it. The book was filled with photographs of Adolf Hitler and his rise to power.

"Many of the photographs probably have never been seen before," Cochran said. The year was 1943. On Saturday afternoon, the Hagerstown resident decided to find out if what he discovered more than 60 years ago had any value. "To me, it's very valuable," Cochran said. "I'd never part with it. I just wanted to hear what an expert had to say about it."

Cochran was among the 20 people who attended a book appraisal and presentation on book conservation at the Washington County Free Library, sponsored by Friends of the Washington County Free Library. A five dollar ticket entitled the purchaser to have one book or one set of books appraised and to attend the lecture. According to member Mary Summerville, all proceeds benefit library programs, including the summer reading program for children. Summerville said the book appraisal was offered "because we thought there was a niche for it. The response has been very interesting. We'd love to offer this again. Sometimes these things have a way of catching on."

The program featured appraiser Michael J. Osborne of Columbia, Md. and Jan Riker, a used book dealer, also of Columbia. During the program, Osborne offered some insight into book appraising, "Appraisals are usually undertaken for several reasons, such as insurance purposes or estate purposes to determine a fair market value." He went on to say, "The condition of the book, as well as its completeness, edition, shelf presence and design are important in any appraisal." For owners and collectors of old books, Osborne also offered some tips on book conservation, saying, "The environment around the book is a major concern because unacceptable levels of temperature and humidity will accelerate deterioration. It's also important to keep books out of direct sunlight. Even dust and dirt from handling the books can adversely affect them, so dust regularly." If a book needs repair, "don't do anything that can't be undone," he said. "When in doubt, take it to a professional."

Betty Eves of Hagerstown said she found the program to be very helpful. She had brought in a book that had been in the family since the 1940s, "The Red Pony" by John Steinbeck. "This book has been read and reread by several generations," Eves said. "I would never sell it, but I was curious about its value. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what I have. I hope they do this again."

Jean Usary of Hagerstown was also pleased with the opportunity to meet with an appraiser. She brought in "The Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan. "It belonged to my father," Usary said. "It's been in the family for over 40 years and had never been appraised. This program is a wonderful idea. I've learned a great deal today."

## **Happenings**

\*\*\*The newly renovated Forest Park Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library reopened in January, the Friends of the Forest Park Library donated a laminating machine to the branch in memory of the late Joseph Henley, a former Friend. The Friends provided support to the branch for “The Untangled Yarn Book Discussion Group” and the Easter egg hunt that involved both adults and children. The Forest Park Library opening is timely because of the closing of the Reisterstown Road branch due to water damage.

The renovation of the Forest Park Librray was made possible through a one million dollar anonymous gift to the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The donation enables other libraries in the Pratt system to have similar makeovers. In addition, plans for the new southeast Anchor Library in Highlandtown is proceeding, which will be Pratt’s first new library in 30 years.

\*\*\*On May 23, Howard County Library holds “Supper at Six,” an evening with Marita Golden at The Furnace Inn in Elkridge. Call the administrative offices or any of the branches for information.

### **\*\*\*MPOWER**

On April 8, Maryland became the first state in the nation to “formally implement a borrowing program that unifies libraries in a statewide system.” The launching took place in Anne Arundel’s newest library in Odenton, with First Lady, Kendel Ehrlich reading *Come Along Daisy!* to a group of kindergarten children from Odenton Christian School. Although library customers were always able to borrow from other counties, Irene Padilla, Assistant State Superintendent for Library Development and Services felt this marketing initiative was necessary to advertise to library patrons.

\*\*\*The ceremony honoring Karen Patterson with the 2005 James Partridge Award for Outstanding African American Information Professional was cancelled due to heavy snow. The award was later presented to Karen during a luncheon hosted by CLIS, and a dinner attended by her family, CLIS representatives, CML President, Lynn Wheeler and members of the award team. In her speech, Karen attributed her career in librarianship to her early beginnings in Pennsylvania and the set of encyclopedias her dad purchased for her. Karen is now Director of Information Resource Center, at College of Information Studies, UMCP.

## **Library Leadership**

\*\*Maryland Library Leadership Institute.

On April 24, library professionals were selected to participate in Maryland’s Library Leadership Institute. The five-day institute will be held at the Riverfront Conference Center, Cecil County in July 2005, and be facilitated by John Shannon and Becky Schreiber, of Shannon and Schreiber.

\*\*The Harvard graduate School of Education will hold the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians from August 7 through August 12.

\*\*\*From Anne Arundel County Public Library – “Connect, Click, & Listen!”  
Anne Arundel County Public Library and the Recorded Books company are joining forces to provide a fascinating look at the world of downloadable audio books. Programs introducing this new technology to the public will be held at three AACPL branches. Library professionals from around the state are invited to attend. These programs are free and require no registration.

Learn about this new service, now just a click away at the library and on the Web. Matt Walker, from Recorded Books, will discuss and demonstrate the use of downloadable audio books. Narrators like George Guidall or Barbara Rosenblat will explain the narration process, answer questions and perform a reading. There will also be drawings for free audio books. Stop by and have a listen! For more information, please contact Joan Bradford at 410-222-7371 or [jbradford@aacpl.net](mailto:jbradford@aacpl.net).

\*\*\*Pikesville Library of the Baltimore County Public Library was awarded a grant of \$1,500 from the American Library Association as part of its “Let’s Talk About It: Jewish Literature,” one of approximately 200 libraries nationwide to have received the grant.



## **Membership Application**

Yes I want to join CITIZENS FOR MARYLAND LIBRARIES (CML) and continue to work for the best possible public library service for all the people of Maryland.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **Membership through December 2005:**

\_\_\_ **\$15 Individual**

\_\_\_ **\$38 Friends of Library Groups**

\_\_\_ **\$75 Corporations/Organizations**

\_\_\_ **\$155 Benefactors**

### **Membership through December 2007:**

\_\_\_ **\$38 Individual**

\_\_\_ **\$98 Friends of Library Groups**

\_\_\_ **\$188 Corporations/Organizations**

\_\_\_ **\$375 Benefactors**

\_\_\_ **\$750 Life Member**

**Additional contributions to CML \$ \_\_\_\_\_ work toward improved library service and libraries in Maryland.**

Payment

Checks should be made payable to:

CML (tax-deductible)

Mail to

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