

The Citizen

The newsletter of Citizens for Maryland Libraries
P.O. Box 267, Funkstown, MD 21734

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PRATT'S BIG

It's still called the Enoch Pratt Free Library. But it's not. Not free, that is. Its founder and namesake gave generously to that end. And while government sustained and expanded it over the years, the library has suffered as operational costs rise and demands for service increase.

In a city struggling to protect itself from violent crime, money for libraries seems like frills. Nothing could be more shortsighted. Libraries fight crime, too: smart, educated people respect each other and their city. They find life worth living and preserving.

Kids from Grace and St. Peter's School march proudly down Cathedral Street to use their new cards. Secretaries and businessmen on lunch break stroll over to browse.

A further witness to the value of reading—and the Pratt—comes now from the France-Merrick Foundation, which has issued a \$100,000 challenge.

The library must attract 100 new members for its Enoch Pratt Society, readers and patrons who give the library at least \$1,000 a year. The new membership would bring in at least \$100,000. Fifty-three new members have signed up already; 47 more are needed. The idea is to raise money while broadening the base of supporters.

The foundation will accomplish at least two objectives: the library will have \$200,000 more in unrestricted funds; and readers in the Baltimore region will have an opportunity to follow, however modestly in the footsteps of Enoch Pratt.

The Book Thing of Baltimore

At the corner of Charles and 27th Streets in Baltimore, one can get free books from a place called The Book Thing. *The Baltimore Sun's* Jacques Kelly wrote that there are some 200,000 volumes from which to choose. Former bartender, Russell Wattenberg, who collected orphaned books, conceived the idea of The Book Thing. The collection is arranged by subjects. Anyone can go and help himself or herself, or add to The Book Thing's collection by donating a few books. A great way to help the city that reads.

Richmond Public Library in British Columbia, Ironwood Branch

Library of the Future

This library of the future is furnished with a 20-seat computer training center, 39 designated Internet training stations, digital reference centers, 28-seat silent study room wired for personal laptops, refreshments in the library living room where customers can browse through magazines while enjoying coffee in comfortable chairs. According to the System's Deputy Chief, Cate McNeely, "Wandering through the 12,000-square-foot branch library, one notices that it's no longer a quiet, solitary place. The hush is long gone from our library, although

Estelle Williamson

The library community mourns the death of Estelle Williamson, a Friend, Advocate, and former teacher/ media specialist. Estelle was instrumental in the founding of the FRIENDS OF MARYLAND STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. She was a member of the

Friends of Randallstown Library Book Sale

CML Executive Committee:

Nancy Aldous, president; Lynn Wheeler, vice president; Sandy Doggett, secretary; Linda Mielke, treasurer. Board members for three-year terms ending in 2003: Emily Ferren, Pat Fisher, Glennor Shirley, Josef Brown,

3rd Annual Maryland State Friends of Libraries Conference

Sponsored by CML, DLDS, Saturday April 7, 2001, 9:30a.m.-3:00p.m. Radisson Hotel, Annapolis, MD.

Program includes; presentation on FUTURE OF LIBRARIES, by Maurice Travillian, Asst. State Superintendent of Libraries; round table discussions on membership and recruitment; fundraising - solicitations of in-kind contributions, wills, estates and trusts; book sales and library stores; and a demonstration of

the electronic book.

Registration deadline: March 26. Fee: \$23.00 includes lunch. For more information contact: Emily Ferren, chair at 310-934-9001, fax: 301-934-2297. E-mail: eferren@somd.lib.md.us

Library Community in

On Monday January 22, CML Board members, and various members of the Maryland library community honored the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Maryland Legislators, in the Governor's reception room at the State House. The library attendees were pleased and encouraged when delegates and Senators took time out of their busy evening, to attend the reception and some to give impromptu speeches. The Lieutenant Governor, Senator Miller, and Major Riddick talked about their support and respect for libraries. Librarians, Friends of Libraries, and CML Board members

got an opportunity to meet and talk with the legislators who will influence the outcome of the library services that we provide for the Maryland community.

January 27, Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries and Citizens for Maryland Libraries held their meetings in the Nimitz Library at the US Naval Academy. Both groups jointly toured the library before convening their respective meetings. Maurice Travillian attended both meetings, updating CML on State issues regarding libraries.

Legislative Committee Update

The HHS Education Appropriations Bill shows some increases for libraries. However, it also includes filtering guidelines based on concepts that may result in court challenges to the bill's language.

At the Annual Legislative reception, funded in part by CML, the committee will convey our



DATE TO REMEMBER

Maryland Library Association's Annual Conference: May 16-18,
Holiday Inn Select, Solomons Island

Anne Arundel County Public Library Lends e-books

While many Maryland library systems are evaluating the electronic books, Anne Arundel is paving the way by making 24 Rocket eBooks available for circulation in its 15 branches. The portable device, with an approximate value of \$270.00 each, weighs less than two pounds, comes with battery rechargers, buttons to turn the page, and can hold the text of up to 10 novels. Each device has a touch screen, allowing readers to select titles, highlight text, do text searches, or illuminate the screen for night reading. Readers can also adjust the size of the font.

Predictions are that if the technology catches on, customers will have the capability to download the latest best sellers and many other titles, onto a portable device from locations outside the library. In the case of Anne Arundel County library users, they cannot download the books on the borrowed eBooks since the service is registered to the library.

The Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) provided each system with at least one electronic book in order to get library systems familiar with the technology. One source quotes Maurice Travillian, assistant superintendent for DLDS, as saying "I think that digital books will prevail in the long run—it has too many advantages. In future versions, the illustrations will move, there will be video, you'll be able to change

Library Events/ Programs/News

Friends of Charles County Public Library. In 2000 FCCPL donated over \$13,375 to the library system, supporting the library by publicizing it, helping to sponsor its projects and providing the funds for ad hoc items not in the formal budget.

Book Bridge Project is a program that uses literature as a basis for fostering greater communication and understanding among diverse groups in the community. Sponsors are Prince George's County Memorial Library & Prince George's Community College. Call any branch of PGCML for information.

Literary Luncheon Series sponsored by Friends of the Montgomery County Library will feature *Threads of Time: African-American Designers 1854-1954* and *The Waterman*, a novel of the Chesapeake Bay, by Tim Junkin. More information from Friends at 240-777-0020.

The Annual Celebration of African-Americans in the Information Profession will be held on February 20, at 3:00p.m. in the Nyumburu Culture Center, UMCP. The James Partridge Award will be presented to Satia Marshall Orange, director of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services of ALA. For more information contact Bill Wilson at CLIS.

Benefits to joining Citizens for Maryland Libraries: If you join CML, you will get the same discounted rates that apply to MLA members when you attend MLA events, education programs, and work-

Maryland Library Leadership Institute

MLA Leadership Institute Taskforce has been meeting to plan the third leadership institute to be held at Rocky Gap in July 2002. The institute is a 6-day retreat for individuals identified, recommended, and sponsored by their supervisors and library systems as potential leaders in the Maryland library community. Members of the taskforce evaluate the recommended candidates and choose candidates for the institute based on their qualifications, resume, work history, personal essays, and their response to the questions about their expectations from the institute, which is facilitated by Becky Schreiber and John Shannon.

Many participants of the previous Institute have since moved on to promotional jobs in libraries. Others have been so motivated after their participation in the institute that they are now in library school.

In addition to the fees paid by the sponsoring library, the Task Force raises funds through solicitations from library vendors and individual library supporters and Friends. As part of its campaign to make itself more visible, the Leadership Task Force will be hosting a reception at the MLA Annual Conference in Solomon Island. For more questions on

Membership Application

Yes, I want to join CITIZENS FOR MARYLAND LIBRARIES (CML) along with the many citizens and organizations across the state of Maryland, who through their membership in CML continue to work

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ \$10 Individual (through December 2001) or | _____ \$25 Individual (for THREE years, through December 2003) |
| _____ \$25 Friends of Library Groups | _____ \$50 Corporations / Organizations |
| _____ \$100 Benefactor | _____ \$500 Life Member |

Additional contributions to CML \$ _____ or to PUBLIUS \$ _____ work toward improved library service and libraries in Maryland.

Payment

Checks should be made payable to:
CML (fully tax-deductible)
or to **PUBLIUS**
(not eligible for tax deduction).

Mail to

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