

## The Citizen

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

Number 25

Winter 2006

CITIZEN Bill Wilson

If you see Bill Wilson approaching, and you make eye contact, chances are you are going to say “yes” to the library issue for which Bill is advocating. Our indefatigable Secretary of the CML Board has held many positions in Maryland libraries since the 1970’s. He has been chair of Academic and Research Libraries Division, Awards Committee, Nominations Committee, Annual Conference and Membership Committee. Other committees on which this past MLA President was an active member include, Marketing Committee, Retiree Interest Group, Library Leadership Task Force, Intellectual Freedom Panel, Fundraising Task Force of the Maryland Author Award and the Diversity Task Force.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Bill worked as cataloger and reference librarian at Beloit College Libraries; senior librarian and administrative assistant at the Enoch Pratt Free Library; librarian and associate professor at Catawba College; librarian, lecturer and coordinator at the College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, College Park.

Many are unaware that Bill thought of being an architect before opting for librarianship. He says, “I started out in architecture for one semester at MIT, but left before I failed out of that place. My Louisiana high school did not prepare me for that school, and my lack of talent was obvious when [I got there].” He got his start in the library field as a student assistant in 1955 and was destined for librarianship ever since.

Hobbies? “I accumulate stuff (mostly paper), which in due course I will place in the archives at the University Archives. I do like to travel and have visited 22 countries on six continents, the most recent trips being to Cuba in 2003 and Bangladesh in 2004. I have been active in environmental organizations in Maryland, was President of the Maryland Conservation Council from 1980 to 1982. I am also active in historical and preservation organizations since 1975, and was a board member of the Victorian Society in America, and have been the secretary of the District of Columbia Chapter since 1997. As you may surmise, I consider myself an organizational junkie or more politely — a citizen activist.”

Bill Wilson leaves us with this, “The future for libraries and information organizations of all kinds is very bright, because the demand for managing information (so we do not drown in it) is ever more daunting.”

## **Happenings/News**

### **Cumberland Valley Library Association**

April 12, 2006 The Retired Interest Group (Maryland Library Association) will sponsor a tour of the U.S. Supreme Court Library.

June 6 – 7 Driving Tour "Finding a Way to Freedom" The Underground Railroad in Dorchester and Caroline Counties, Maryland, in the 1850's.

Contact: Naomi Butler by phone (301-739-3250, ext. 142), by fax (301-739-5839), or e-mail (naomib@washcolibrary.org).

June 22 – 28 American Library Association Annual Conference, New Orleans.

The 2006 winner of the James Partridge Award is Dr. Thomas C. Battle, director of the Moorlands Springharm Research Center of Howard University. The award will be presented on February 28 at the Nyumburu Cultural Center, University of Maryland, College Park.

### **Hurricane Katrina news from Margaret Carty**

In December, representatives from MLA's Disaster Relief Committee traveled to Mississippi to deliver a bookmobile (donated by Allegany County), about 4,000 books, audio books and computer equipment (donated by Sirsi), along with a cash donation (\$12,000 to date) to the Hancock Public Library System for use in Pearlinton and other surrounding communities that were devastated by the hurricane.

If you wish to assist, contact Margaret Carty at the MLA office by mail (1401 Hollins Street, Baltimore, MD 21223), phone (410-947-5090), fax (410-947-5089), or e-mail (mcarty@mdlib.org).

### **Not just any edition**

Hundreds of people stand in long lines for hours to attend the Antiques Road Show and have personal property appraisers examine and value what everyone hopes will be a treasure. On a smaller scale, the Friends of the Washington County Free Library held two book appraisals in the past year. Unexpected treasures were found. In spring 2005, a first edition of Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* was appraised at, and later sold for, \$5,000 at the Baltimore Antiquarian Book Fair.

More treasures appeared at the event held in November. Appraisers Michael Osborne of Michael J. Osborne Books LLC, Columbia, MD, and Jan Riker of Basset Books LLC, Savage, MD, expressed their delight in "seeing such an array of beautiful books." As attendees waited for their appraisals, Osborne focused on an exceptionally attractive copy of Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" illustrated by Gustave Dore. This is an oversized folio with stunning full-page engravings by Dore. The rarity of finding this book in as good a condition, enhanced its value. Another book examined by Osborne was a nondescript, late 18<sup>th</sup> century book that turned out to be a collection of seven bound

political/government pamphlets from the early 1780's. The appraised value was over \$3,000. Other interesting books included signed children's books and first editions.

A book appraisal fundraiser is an easy event to organize and promote. Costs are minimal and include printing tickets, light refreshments and publicity. Each appraisal takes approximately five minutes.

Some attendees joined the Friends. Over 40 people attended the event and over 80 books were appraised, producing a successful event for the Friends of the Washington County Free Library. (Mary Summerville, FWCFL)

### **News from DLDS**

The Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development and Services has partnered with Online Computer Library Center, OCLC CAPCON and PALINET to include Maryland Public Libraries in the Open WorldCat program.

The Open WorldCat program makes records of library-owned materials in OCLC's WorldCat database available to Web users on popular Internet search, bibliographic and bookselling sites. The result — Maryland Public Libraries will be more visible on the Web and their catalogs will be more accessible from the sites where many people start their search for information. The Open WorldCat solution selected by the Division of Library Development and Services includes unlimited use of OCLC cataloging services and unlimited use of both the OCLC WorldCat database and a customized view of WorldCat, specifically for Maryland Public Libraries. This solution provides unique benefits and advantages for Maryland Public Libraries and increases the visibility of Maryland Public Libraries on the Web. Their catalogs will be more accessible from the sites where many people start their search for information.

Open WorldCat solution components:

Unlimited use of OCLC cataloging tools. With an unlimited subscription to the OCLC Cataloging service, Maryland Public Libraries can use the following services: CatExpress, Connexion client and browser, PromptCat and/or Cataloging Partners Program, Z39.50 Cataloging, and on-going batchloading.

The Maryland Statewide Catalog is being made available to the Maryland Public Libraries through the OCLC FirstSearch service. FirstSearch, an online reference service, is a powerful and highly customizable reference tool for libraries. Your patrons will be able to quickly locate the right resources.

**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 2006:**

- \$15 Individual**
- \$38 Friends of Library Groups**
- \$75 Corporations/Organizations**
- \$155 Benefactors**

**Membership through December 2009:**

- \$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  
 Citizens for Maryland Libraries  
 P.O. Box  
 Funkstown, MD 21734-0267

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P.O. Box 267, Funkstown, MD 21734  
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**Return Address**  
**The Citizen**

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