

# The Citizen

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## Book Club Goes Virtual

*(The following article by Howard Libit appeared in the October 26, 1998 edition of the Baltimore Sun.)*

The members of this new book club have never met, and they know each other only through their e-mail nicknames.

But when it comes to the quality of their literary discussions, **Baltimore County's Virtual Book Club** is as sophisticated as any group that meets in the county's library branches or people's homes.

"We're having really interesting conversations and a lot of people offer excellent analyses of the books," said Susan Lee, 44, an Anne Arundel County librarian who has been in the book club for about two months. "I really enjoy learning about what everyone else is reading and what they think of the books."

Formed in May, the organization is the latest effort by the Baltimore County Public Library to use technology to expand its reach

into the community, said **Nancy Reger**, former Information Services coordinator. The club is open to anyone, anywhere with an Internet e-mail account.

"Our goal in the libraries is to get people to read, and book clubs are a great way to do that," Reger said. "But a lot of people don't have the time in their busy schedules to meet at a regular time once or twice a month for a traditional book club. So we decided to try something that was more flexible."

Having seen literary discussions on the Web sites of national news publications, library officials decided to try their own hand - particularly when they could not find anything similar in Maryland.

They were helped by the county library's extensive computer capabilities, which include

## CML Officers and Board

At the annual meeting on November 7, 1998, officers were elected as follows: **Maurice Rindskopf**, president; **J. Michael Davis**, vice president; **Sandy Doggett**, secretary; **Linda Mielke**, treasurer.

Board members elected for three-year terms ending in the year 2001 were **Nancy Aldous**, Damascus, **Elizabeth Aversa**, Columbia, and **Linda Mielke**, Westminster. **William G. Wilson**, Riverdale, was elected to fill a one-year term ending in the year 1999.

Continuing board members are **Tim Bryson**, Westminster, **Sandy Doggett**, Myersville, **Linda**

## Leo the Philanthropist

Dateline Los Angeles - **Leonardo DiCaprio** has given \$35,000 to a new library in his old neighborhood. The money will be used for a computer center at a library branch

## CML's Annual Meeting in Annapolis

Citizens for Maryland Libraries' annual meeting was held jointly with the Maryland

Library trustees on November 7, 1998 at Loew's Annapolis Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland.

Special tributes were made to Delegate **Sheila Hixson**, Montgomery County, for her long time support of the interests of Maryland's public libraries in the state legislature, and to **Isabelle Lynch**, former CML board member and Cecil County

trustee, for her long and distinguished career in support of Maryland's public libraries.

**Kathy Southern**, executive director of the Port Discovery Museum in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, gave us a sneak preview of this new children's museum which opened on December 29, 1998. As described in the Summer 1998 issue of *The Citizen*, Port Discovery will contain the Pratt Library's Exploration Center, a 2,000-square-foot

branch learning library center where children can follow up and extend their museum experiences.

Assistant State Superintendent for Libraries **Maurice Travillian** presented the State of the Library Report. His report included a description of the Division of Library Development and Services' Strategic Plan 1999-2001.

The featured speaker of the day was **Dr. John Bertot**, associate professor, School of Information



## CML Solicits Applicants for Grant

CML is soliciting applicants for our fourth annual CITIZEN SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES grant, an award of \$1,000. Any individual, group or organization is eligible to apply for this grant. Proposals must demonstrate effective incentive involving citizens in the support of a Maryland library and proposed projects must be completed during 1999.

In 1996, our award went to the Friends of the Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County. In collaboration with a local bank, the grant underwrote a golf tournament, a very successful fundraiser that involved a great deal of community support.

The Friends of the Kent County Public Library were recipients in 1997. Kent's Friends launched a direct mail campaign with the funding, resulting in raising a substantial amount

## Friends Around the Free State

Friends of the Charles County Public Library has added a "Reader's Choice" column to its newsletter, *The Reading Lamp*. "Oldies but Still Terrific" authors such as Victoria Holt, Mary Stewart, Phyllis Whitney and Joan Aiken were featured in the fall issue.

Friends of the Cecil County Library is marking a major milestone in its history - 50 years of support for the public libraries of Cecil County. Happy birthday, Cecil Friends, and best wishes for a particularly successful 1999.

Howard County Friends of the Library have targeted National Library Week, April 11-17, for a major



Gaithersburg, November 2, 1998, CML President Mary Lou Dewey and Board Member Davis McCarn, right, present a plaque from CML to Governor Parris Glendening, citing his extraordinary support of Maryland libraries.

membership drive.

Friends of the Libraries, University of Maryland, has just introduced a new benefit to its membership - the Bookstore Discount Card, valid for one year.

## Mary Dewey Appointed to Council on Libraries

CML's immediate past president, Mary Lou Dewey has been appointed for a five-year term to the 12-member Maryland Advisory Council on Libraries. This group is appointed by the governor and serves as an advisory board to the

Division of Library Development and Services, the state Superintendent of Schools, the state Board of Education and the governor himself. Assistant Superintendent for Libraries Maurice Travillian states, "The Maryland Advisory Council is delighted

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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|--|--|
| _____ \$10 Individual (through December 1999) or | _____ \$25 Individual (for THREE years, through December 2001) |
| _____ \$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

Citizens for Maryland Libraries  
P.O. Box 103 / Kensington, MD 20895