

*The Advocate for Maryland Libraries* is a monthly publication of Citizens for Maryland Libraries. You are receiving *The Advocate* as a supporter of libraries and a member of CML.

Citizens for Maryland Libraries

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## THE ADVOCATE *for Maryland Libraries*

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### Libraries: Always part of my life

*Kristen Pironis, President, CML*

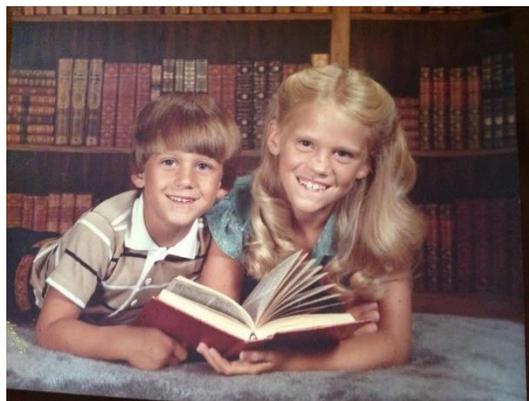
I am not a librarian. I have never worked in a library. And, I am still learning what it means to be the president of Citizens for Maryland Libraries. That said, I am thrilled to be part of this large and diverse community of library supporters.

When I was growing up, our family moved quite a bit. At each new home, my mother took my brother and me to get library cards in our new town. Before the boxes were unpacked, before we hung curtains or figured out which neighbor had a pool, we were card-carrying members of the library and of the community. A family photo of my brother and me reading together is at the bottom of this message.

When I moved to Kent Island twelve years ago, before we unpacked all of our boxes and even made a trip to the grocery store, we went to the library. I still carry that same card and Kent Island, the community and its library, is my home. A few years ago, one of the librarians in the branch suggested I apply to be a board member for Queen Anne's County. It seemed like the right time to give back to the community that had become home to me. In 2012, I joined the Queen Anne's County Library Board. In that time, I have been lucky to meet incredible people who give of their time, talent and treasure to make our county's libraries better. During this same time, I met a few members of the CML board at the Maryland Legislative Day in Annapolis.\* Again, I was struck by how invested and committed the board members were to advocating for libraries across the state as well as helping those who advocate on behalf of libraries.

From the volunteers to paid staff, from friends to trustees, this community of library supporters in Maryland is strong, and getting stronger. Thank you for welcoming me to this extended community. I look forward to meeting with you and working with you, to growing this community and advocating for your library and mine. A belated Happy New Year!

\* Hope to see you at the 2017 Maryland Legislative Day in Annapolis on February 14th.



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