

Compass

ENOCH PRATT *free* LIBRARY | your journey starts here

Fall 2026



Baltimore the City that Reads



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EMAIL: nrt@prattlibrary.org

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EMAIL: wvr@prattlibrary.org

ALL PRATT LOCATIONS WILL BE CLOSED:

Labor Day: *Monday, September 7*

Indigenous Peoples' Day: *Monday, October 12*

Election Day: *Tuesday, November 3*

Veteran's Day: *Wednesday, November 11*

Thanksgiving Day: *Thursday, November 26*

HELP US SAVE PAPER & POSTAGE

Find the complete issue of *Compass* online at prattlibrary.org/publications. You can also now update your subscription to *Compass* online! Fill out the linked form to subscribe or unsubscribe from the mailing list.



ENOCH PRATT
free LIBRARY

Compass is published four times a year by the Marketing & Communications Department.

Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

The mission of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is to empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all through equitable access to information, services, and opportunity.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Go back to school with the Pratt! With a free Pratt Library card, students of all ages can find everything they need for a successful school year.

Whether you need to get online with a Chromebook or hotspot, start a research project, find homework help, or borrow materials for hands-on learning at home, the Pratt has you covered!



prattlibrary.org/back-to-school

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the CEO	2
Summer Break Baltimore Recap	3
STEM Fest	4
Hispanic Heritage	5
The City that Reads	6
Author Events	8
What's New	10
Spooky Season	11
Spotlight on Herring Run	12
Fall Fun	13



MENCKEN DAY 2026

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Central Library

Honoring the memory, career, and bequest of Baltimore journalist, satirist, social critic, and scholar Henry Louis Mencken. The day consists of three parts:

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. A pop-up exhibit featuring the Mencken Collection in the Special Collections Reading Room.

10:30 a.m. The Mencken Society Annual Meeting (open to the public).

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. The Mencken Memorial Lecture delivered by historian Andrew Holter (in-person and streaming).

LETTER FROM THE CEO



Happy fall, Baltimore! In this issue of *Compass*, we are celebrating you: “The City that Reads!” The Pratt has reached out to customers from all over the city to learn more about what drives their love of reading, what books they gravitate towards, how Baltimore and reading have become such a large part of their lives, and more.

We’ve only just started the conversation, but already, we’ve gotten to know the captivating stories and amazing personalities of several members of the Pratt Library community. The feature article is on page six of this issue of *Compass*, but please do look forward to even more about “The City That Reads” from us coming soon!

Back to School season is here as well. Don’t forget that the Pratt serves as not only a

wonderful complement to K – 12, higher education, and life longer learning, but also as a great place to go outside of school to get one’s mind off of studying, ready to relax, and able to recharge. Branches across the library system offer after-school events that provide fun, social, and stimulating activities for students, diverse and high-quality collections of loanable and digital materials, study and meeting rooms for getting together with the community, and so much more.

We are also excited about the new season of Writers LIVE! events coming up this fall. In just the month of September, the Pratt will be hosting several multidisciplinary writers that hail from all corners of art and culture, from acclaimed Chef Carla Hall (culinary arts) to Academy Award and Golden Globe-winning Actor Ke Huy Quan (film) to hip-hop luminary and groundbreaking DJ Grandmaster Flash (music).

And for all you brave souls out there, we have lots of spine-tingling “spooky season” events this October that will either keep you glued to your seats or running for the hills. We’ve got everything from scary movie nights to programs on real-life, haunting, and horrific treasures from our special collections. Don’t be scared to tag us on social media (@prattlibrary) during your next haunt to a Pratt library.

Every new season is an adventure, and we hope you go a few with us in the coming months. I’ll see you at the library!

Chad Helton, President & CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

P.S. Be sure to check out the new “Fall Fun” word search on page 13 of this issue!

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH THE CEO

Saturday, September 19, 11:00 a.m. | Johnston Square

Saturday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. | Govans

Meet Pratt Library President & CEO Chad Helton. Share what you love about your library and what the Pratt can do to make your library welcoming to all. This event is part of a series of town hall meetings at all Pratt Library locations.

Light refreshments will be provided.

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The next Meeting of the Boards of Trustees and Directors will be held Wednesday, September 30 at 5:15 p.m. Visit prattlibrary.org for details.

SUMMER BREAK BALTIMORE

Thanks to everyone who participated in Summer Break Baltimore 2026!

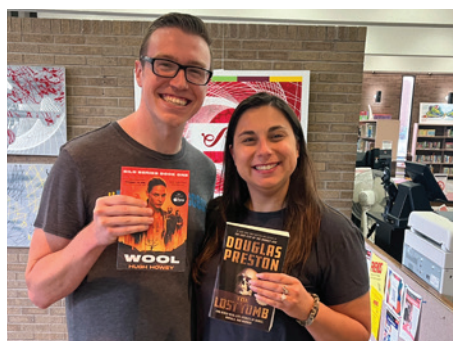
This year participants were invited to play BINGO with Chessie the Chesapeake Bay sea monster. Everyone recieved a free book upon signing up. Those who completed a BINGO row received a Summer Break Baltimore t-shirt or alternative prize.

Thank you to the many donors who helped make Summer Break Baltimore possible! If you'd like to make a gift to the Pratt Library to help provide books for families across the city, please visit prattlibrary.org/give.



**MORE THAN
20,000
PARTICIPANTS**

**MORE THAN
15,000
BOOKS READ**

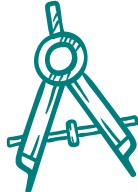


**MORE THAN
45,000
BINGO ACTIVITIES
COMPLETED**





STEM FEST



ALL AGES

3D Printing Day

Saturday, October 17, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Light St.

Stop by to learn more about the Light Street Branch's new 3D Printer! Choose one item to print from pre-selected designs including fidgets, miniatures, and other small trinkets. All ages are welcome!

TEENS

STEAM Day: LED Name Badges

Thursday, September 3, 3:00 p.m.
Roland Park

Build your own LED name badge and learn about optics and circuitry.

Creating Moss-scapes

Thursday, September 10, 3:00 p.m.
Roland Park

Tuesday, September 15, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Tuesday, September 22, 3:30 p.m. | Light St.
Learn about the role (and lore) of moss in our environment while creating our own moss-scapes through guided art prompts and artistic exploration with preserved moss.

STEM Fest: Build Kinetic Creatures

Monday, November 2, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Using LEGO® Technic bricks and papercraft materials, design and build your own moving kinetic creatures.

Code Your Own Chatbot

Wednesday, November 4, 3:30 p.m.
Brooklyn

Learn all the basic skills needed to create a simple chatbot! Create a conversation with anyone or anything using Python.

STEAM Day: Solar Bugs

Monday, November 16, 3:00 p.m.
Roland Park

Create solar-powered insects that move!
Learn about solar energy by creating a simple circuit using conductive tape and batteries.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Let's Celebrate! Ada Lovelace Day

Tuesday, October 13, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
Join us and learn about Ada Lovelace, computer programmer extraordinaire, and try a coding activity.

Spooky Science Spectacular with Eric Energy

Thursday, October 15, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Indoor lightning from Dr. Frankenstein's lab, a spooky voice changer, bubbling potions and a real witch's brew are a few of the not-so-scary experiments you'll see.

Light Street Lab

Monday, October 19, 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17, 3:30 p.m.
Light St.

Ignite your curiosity in the Light Street Lab! Explore the wonders of STEAM — science, technology, engineering, art, and math — through interactive, hands-on activities.

Spooky Slime Time!

Friday, October 23, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Make an ooey gooey green monster slime, orange pumpkin slime, or any other slime you can imagine with our spooky add-ins. See and feel the chemical reaction as the activator turns ordinary glue into slime!

Slime Cauldrons

Saturday, October 24, 2:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Join us for a witchy afternoon where we'll brew up some glittery slime in tiny cauldrons!

Kaleidoscope Crafternoon

Friday, November 6, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Explore colors, light, and mirrors by making your own kaleidoscope!

STEM Crafternoon

Monday, November 9, 3:00 p.m.
Roland Park

Learn how to make your own windmill and try out some fun STEM tools!

MD STEM Festival: Waverly Star Wars 4-H into to Coding and Robotics

Thursday, November 12, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Youth from the Waverly School Aged Child Care Center invite you to a fun, interactive demonstration and workshop on coding and robotics. Waverly 4-H Stem Club members will help other youth, K – 3rd grade, learn how to navigate and code the Dash robot. This program is held in collaboration with University of Maryland Extension, Baltimore Housing, and the Maryland STEM Festival.

STEM Challenge: Pumpkin Catapult

Thursday, November 12, 4:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Learn how to build a working catapult from simple household items, then compete to see who can launch their candy pumpkin the farthest! Top builders will receive fall-themed prizes.

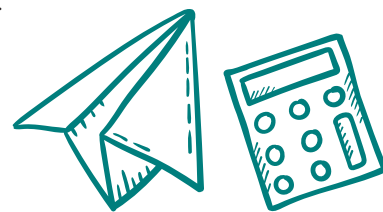
DIY Bristlebots

Monday, November 16, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Make your very own bristlebot at the library!

Build It Big! STEAM Lab

Tuesday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.
Johnston Square

Put your engineering skills to the test at our STEAM Tower Challenge! Experiment, collaborate, and innovate as you compete to build the tallest and sturdiest tower you can imagine.



STEMFEST 2026

Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Central Library

Discover the building blocks of artificial intelligence through hands-on play, creativity, and problem-solving at this interactive family event! Children and caregivers will explore how computers learn by recognizing patterns, following instructions, making predictions, and learning through trial and error.

Through engaging activities, families will discover that AI isn't magic — it's technology created by people. Kids will experiment with giving step-by-step instructions to a "robot," train a pretend computer by sorting pictures into categories, explore how computers recognize images, and solve pattern challenges.



HISPANIC HERITAGE

ALL AGES

Live Music: Patrick Alban & his Buena Vista Social

Saturday, October 24, 3:00 p.m. | Light St.
Get ready to be swept away by the rhythmic beats, passionate melodies, and soulful performances as Patrick Alban brings his unique blend of Cuban, Gipsy Kings, and World Music to the library.

ADULTS

Hispanic Heritage Month Acrylic Painting Workshop

Saturday, September 12
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Create an acrylic painting inspired by the vibrant colors, patterns, and artistic traditions found throughout Hispanic and Latino cultures, led by local artist Esta Baker.

Paint Your Own Salvadoran Folk Art Masterpiece

Thursday, September 17, 5:30 p.m.
Johnston Square
Create your own Salvadoran folk art-inspired painting while learning about El Salvador's traditional symbols, stories, and artistic traditions in a fun and welcoming environment.

Films & Discussion: *Selena* (1997)

Monday, September 28, 5:30 p.m.
Johnston Square
Join the Pratt Library and the Women's Housing Coalition for a movie night. Selena is a biographical drama charting the extraordinary career and tragic slaying of pop singing sensation Selena as her career transcended the Tejano scene that launched her into crossover, mainstream success. 1997 | Rated PG | 2 hr.

TEENS

Hojalata Art: Mexican Tin Art

Monday, September 14, 3:00 p.m.
Roland Park
Learn the history of Hojalata art and have the chance to make your own!

Custom Painted Bangles

Wednesday, September 23, 4:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Teens are invited to celebrate a bit of Hispanic heritage and customize their own bangles inspired by Mexican folk artists.

Learn a New Game: Lotería

Thursday, September 24, 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Join us while we learn and play Lotería!

3D Print Papel Picado

Saturday, September 26, 2:00 p.m. | Brooklyn
Learn the ins and outs of 3D printers by printing out your own papel picado charm.

Cultural Bingo:

Hispanic Heritage Teen Trivia

Monday, September 28, 3:30 p.m.
Cherry Hill
Test your knowledge of Hispanic and Latino cultures through themed bingo cards featuring music, food, geography, history and more.

Teen Craft: Neon-Striped Journals

Tuesday, September 29, 3:00 p.m.
Hampden
Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month with a bold, fun, and easy journal craft inspired by an Argentinian artist!

NFL Trivia: Latino Player Edition

Friday, October 2, 4:00 p.m. | Brooklyn
Test your knowledge of the NFL, and celebrate the impact Latino players have had on the sport!

Shaping Molas with Art with a Heart

Wednesday, October 7, 3:00 p.m.
Patterson Park
Thursday, October 15, 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Art with a Heart invites teens to explore the vibrant textile traditions of the Guna (Kuna) people of Panama by creating layered, colorful artworks inspired by the bold shapes, patterns, and animal imagery found in traditional molas.

Sugar Skulls with the Artesanas

Thursday, November 5, 5:00 p.m. | Brooklyn
Sugar skull calaveras are colorful skulls honoring and celebrating departed souls during Día de los Muertos. Make a small or large size sugar skull decorated with different color royal icing.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Hispanic Heritage Month Who's Who

Tuesdays, September 15 – October 13
4:00 p.m. | Southeast Anchor Library
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with an interactive fact-finding activity in the library! Explore the stories and accomplishments of Hispanic individuals who have made significant contributions in the arts, sciences, sports, and beyond.

Preschool Craft: Papel Picados

Wednesday, September 16, 11:00 a.m.
Edmondson Ave.
Decorate the Children's Area with papel picado — colorful tissue paper flags! For ages three and up.

Monday Movies: *Coco* and Craft

Tuesday, September 22, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Join us for a screening of Disney Pixar's Coco. Make your own Coco-inspired craft while watching the movie.

Alebríes Craft

Tuesday, September 29, 3:30 p.m.
Cherry Hill
Join us as we learn a little about the Mexican folk art known as alebríes. We will decorate some brightly colored animals of our own as well.

Cuentos y Cantos: Spanish/English Toddler Storytime

Wednesday, September 30, 11:00 a.m.
Johnston Square
Celebrate Hispanic heritage with a special storytime session in English and Spanish. For little ones under two years old accompanied by a trusted adult. Everyone is welcome, regardless of their abilities.

Craft Cinema: *Coco* & Sugar Skulls

Thursday, November 5, 4:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Enjoy a screening of Pixar's Coco while you create your very own Mexican sugar skull out of modeling clay, paint, and glitter glue!

the City that Reads

Baltimore is the city that reads.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library has extolled and embodied that sentiment since its inception in 1882, and just over 100 years later, Kurt Schmoke, Baltimore's first elected Black mayor, brought the phrase "the city that reads" into our social consciousness and to broader renown in his inaugural mayoral speech.

In what is only the beginning of an ongoing deep dive into what makes us "the city that reads," the Pratt sat down with nearly a dozen avid readers from across the city to hear them tell the story of their love of reading, what they're reading now and what they read again and again, and how important their relationships with the Library and to the city of Baltimore are. As Baltimore's public library, the Pratt wants nothing more than to shine a light on reading and this community.

In just a few weeks' time, and drawing from our initial interviews, Baltimoreans have shared many recommendations, perspectives, and lived experiences with us, such as a personal immigrant journey, meeting their spouse, caring for children with special needs, nurturing students' minds, and more — all informed and enriched by the written word, supported by their local library, and brimming with love for Baltimore and the people they shares these things with.

Books bring us stories and history only as much as we build our own story and history through family, friends, and communities. Baltimore is indeed the city that reads; it's also the city that fiercely and unabashedly loves and takes pride in itself. The following are just a few excerpts from the stories we've gathered thus far, but this city has many more to share.

To read more stories, visit prattlibrary.org/city-reads



Tabitha, Hamilton

"I realized as I get older that reading made me a better person. I was able to figure out people's points of view and, you know, change my empathy levels, you know?

And it's all because of reading. I read books about different people in different locations and different cultures and different everything. And I

think I have a more successful life because of that."



Onyeka, Central Library

"My mom was a librarian for the Queensborough Public Library. She'd been taking us to libraries since I was a kid. We would do all the summer programs and book clubs. We would take the lists from school and get recommended summer reading books.

My parents would make us do book reports at home, so

I read a lot of autobiographies and memoirs and biographies, because sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction. Like some people's lives. You can't make some stuff up.

She wanted us to develop our own natural love for reading. So, I try not to police like what [my children] read. I want them to organically come up with love of reading on their own."



Berkley, Hampden Branch

"My mom was a big reader, and she used to take me to the public library in my hometown when I was really small. I got a library card as soon as I could get one. I was allowed to take out ten books at a time.

I have a very close relationship with the first Series of Unfortunate Events. I

remember I saw it in the Scholastic Book Fair magazine, and I thought the cover was kind of scary looking. I was like: I've got to read this. I don't know what it is. I'm going to read it. I took the money that I got from plucking marigold heads out of my grandma's garden and I went to the little bookstore in my hometown and I bought the first series of Unfortunate Events."



Daisy, Hampden Branch

"I moved to Baltimore 24 years ago from Toronto, Canada. And I've lived the entire time in Hampden. My family immigrated to Toronto in the mid 60s from South India. And like many immigrants, we didn't have a lot of resources. And my parents confronted the usual challenges, if you're not white, about pay. There weren't a lot of disposable

income in the house. No toys. So my father took my sister and I to the library and got us our first library cards in Toronto. Reading has been my entertainment my whole life.

I love [the Hampden Branch]. I love the team here. It's been really a welcoming place and getting to know the team and just being able to talk to them, getting to know their names, and it's just small enough that you can feel it's an intimate space without it being done."



Raven, Central Library

"I remember the exact moment I discovered my love for reading: It was the summer before my freshman year of high school, I went to Baltimore City College (City forever!).

We had three assignments or books for summer reading. And it was *Kindred*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Bean*

Trees. And I remember my dad dropped me off at Barnes & Noble by myself. It was my first time being in like a public place by myself. And I remember walking in, just looking around at all the books.

The first book I found was *Kindred*, I grabbed it, I fell on the floor because I saw other people sitting on the floor. I opened the book and the rest is history."



Ursula, Hamilton Branch

"I remember very distinctly when I did not ask my mother to read to me anymore, but could hold a book and read myself. This was liberation for me because I didn't have to stop listening. I could read myself.

In the summer, I like to sit outside, feel the breeze and then listen to birds. In the

winter, I like to sit on my bed. I have a queen size bed that I have, on the right side, my books lined up so I wouldn't be able to live in a small bed. I need my books. I always read five or six books at the same time, depending on my mood."

“Reading has been my entertainment my whole life.”



Bob, Central Library

For a lot of readers, [*Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn] might hit their hearts. It addresses censorship and arbitrary decisions from our leaders. Alphabet letters are being banned from use in this fictional town for bizarre reasons. So the author, in telling his story in this novel, stops using those alphabet letters. So, as more and more

letters are getting banned, it's tricky reading this book. At the end, I was alone in my living room and I was enjoying reading the book out loud to help me understand the words. But it has an important message about censorship.

AUTHOR EVENTS

☑ All events require registration; visit calendar.prattlibrary.org to register. ASL interpretation will be available to attendees. Free parking vouchers are available to program attendees who park at the Franklin Street Garage (15 W. Franklin Street) after 4:00 p.m. for author programs located at the Central Library.

WRITERS LIVE!



LOIS ROMANO

An Inconvenient Widow

Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A portrait of the brilliant and flawed Mary Todd Lincoln. Joined by *Baltimore Banner* Editor in Chief Audrey Cooper.

WRITERS LIVE!



CARLA HALL

Carla Bakes

FREE COPY!

Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library

Acclaimed chef Carla Hall returns to baking. Joined by Karsonya Wise Whitehead, host of *Today with Dr. Kaye* on WEAA 88.9 FM.

WRITERS LIVE!



EMILY WILSON

Crossing the Wine-Dark Sea

Thursday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A manifesto for the value of translation in a rapidly changing world. Joined by Johns Hopkins University Classics Chair Karen ni Mheallaigh.

WRITERS LIVE!



CRISTIN O'KEEFE APTOWICZ

The Ballad of the Fugitive William Parker

Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A tale of ordinary people who stood up against injustice. Joined by author and Johns Hopkins University professor Lawrence P. Jackson.

WRITERS LIVE!



JENNIFER ANDERSON

Feed Them Well

Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

This is the book that teaches you how to think about feeding your kids, so every decision feels less like a guess and more like a plan.

WRITERS LIVE!



KE HUY QUAN

Never Say Die

FREE COPY!

Thursday, September 17, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library

From Vietnamese refugee to 80s child star. Joined by Karsonya Wise Whitehead, host of *Today with Dr. Kaye* on WEAA 88.9 FM.

BROWN LECTURE SERIES



GRANDMASTER FLASH

Birth of a Culture

FREE COPY!

Wednesday, September 23, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library

The origins of hip-hop by one of its pioneers. Joined by Karsonya Wise Whitehead, host of *Today with Dr. Kaye* on WEAA 88.9 FM.

YA WRITERS LIVE!



E.L. SHEN

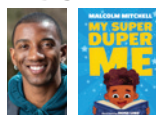
Foreigners

FREE COPY!

Thursday, September 24, 4:00 p.m. | Cherry Hill

Dawn Chin is about to crack open her real family history: a legacy hundreds of years old, and a lie decades in the making.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



MALCOLM MITCHELL

My Super Duper Me

FREE COPY!

Tuesday, September 29, 4:00 p.m. | Light St.

Rhodes struggles at school until Mr. Burton arrives with a super-duper bookshelf that changes everything.

WRITERS LIVE!



BEN MACINTYRE

Redwood

Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A Russian double agent with a desperate secret — and the key to stopping a nuclear apocalypse. Joined by Ian McCredie, former MI6 head of station in Iran and Redwood's case officer.

WRITERS LIVE!



ROBERT KOLKER

The Vanishing Family

Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A medical detective story that speaks to all of us who fear losing ourselves at the end. Joined by bestselling author Laura Lippman.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



LOIS LOWRY

Building 903

FREE COPY!

Thursday, October 1, 5:30 p.m. | Central Library

A story about the radical power of books to unlock our humanity.

WRITERS LIVE!



MIKITA BROTTMAN

A Double Life

Thursday, October 1, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

Mikita Brottman delves into a case that encompasses both obsessive love and deep hatred. Joined by poet and MICA professor Jane Lewty.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



JULIAN RANDALL

Shook

FREE COPY!

Monday, October 5, 4:00 p.m. | Walbrook

After Shake gets injured, can he rebound and make his way back onto the basketball court — and back to feeling like himself?

WRITERS LIVE!



MAXWELL STEARNS

Parliamentary America

Saturday, October 10, 11:00 a.m. | Light St.

Maxwell Stearns argues that the solution to our government's complex problems is a parliamentary democracy.

WRITERS LIVE!



LILY QI

Elected American

Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A journey from Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution to the Maryland State House. Joined by Maryland State Delegate Regina Boyce.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



KEVIN SHERRY

Scales & Tales

FREE COPY!

Wednesday, October 14, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton

The perfect introduction to role-playing games for kids and parents.

WRITERS LIVE!



ROZ CHAST & JASON ADAM KATZENSTEIN

The Two Saddest Kitchens

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

New Yorker cartoonists Roz Chast and Jason Adam Katzenstein combine their hilarious sensibilities to take stock of their kitchens.

WRITERS LIVE!



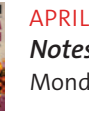
LESLIE GRAY STREETER

Beignets and Big Feelings

Saturday, October 17, 2:00 p.m. | Northwood

A family scavenger hunt unlocks long-hidden secrets. Joined by playwright Lynne Streeter Childress.

BROWN LECTURE SERIES



APRIL RYAN

Notes on a Blacklash

FREE COPY!

Monday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

Veteran White House reporter April Ryan's soul-baring look at what happens when the world suddenly turns its full attention on you.

WRITERS LIVE!



MARCIA CHATELAIN

How Bright the Path Grows

Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A scintillating group biography, about 13 Black women visionaries. Joined by award-winning journalist and author Elaine Weiss.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



ALLIAH L. AGOSTINI

The Ten Tins

FREE COPY!

Wednesday, October 21, 4:00 p.m. | Northwood

None of the grown-ups seem to know that tins are for cookies!

BROWN LECTURE SERIES



D.L. HUGHLEY

Charlie's Boy

FREE COPY!

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library

The long-awaited memoir by comedy legend D.L. Hughley.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD

Fourteen Ways of Looking at Jellyfish

FREE COPY!

Monday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. | Brooklyn

Carole Boston Weatherford shares her fascination with the jellyfish.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



DHONIELLE CLAYTON

The Paragon Games

FREE COPY!

Tuesday, October 27, 4:00 p.m. | Edmondson Ave.

Year Four at the global magic school in the sky is back in session.

WRITERS LIVE!



RILEY BLACK

Tyrant Lizard Queen

Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

An imaginative celebration of T. rex from hatching to adulthood.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



EMILY ROSENTHAL

Leroy Has Something to Say

FREE COPY!

Thursday, October 29, 4:00 p.m. | Govans

There's more than one way to find your voice and make a friend.

WRITERS LIVE!



CHRISTOPHER FREEBURG

Soul

Monday, November 2, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

An account of the wisdom shepherded by Black people throughout generations. Joined by *The Atlantic's* senior editor Vann Newkirk.

WRITERS LIVE!



TIMOTHY TYSON & MARY WILLIAMS

Mahalia Jackson, Moving on Up a Little Higher

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A depiction of the renowned gospel singer and civil rights figure Mahalia Jackson. Joined by *The Atlantic's* senior editor Vann Newkirk.

YA WRITERS LIVE!



PAULA CHASE

Off Balance

FREE COPY!

Tuesday, November 10, 4:00 p.m. | Roland Park

Gossip is juicier and tensions are higher in the sequel to *Balancing Act*.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD

Grind: An Ode to Skateboarding

FREE COPY!

Saturday, November 14, 11:00 a.m. | Hampden

A rhythmic ode to skateboarding.

WRITERS LIVE!



RACHEL BEANLAND

The Half Life

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. | Central Library*

A navy wife's reckoning with power, love, and the price of staying silent in the Atomic Age.

WRITERS LIVE!



MARY CROWNER

The Overwhelming Pain of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Saturday, November 21, 1:00 p.m. | Northwood

The author will discuss PTSD, her marriage, and what she is doing now.

WRITERS LIVE!



SYLVIA JONES & JANE LEWTY

Dope Calisthenics & Vespers

Saturday, November 21, 3:00 p.m.

Central Library*

Reading and conversation with poets Sylvia Jones and Jane Lewty.

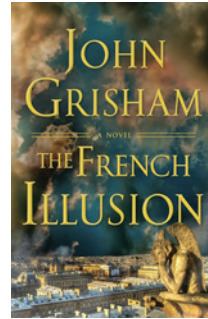
WHAT'S NEW

Here are the most anticipated books of September, October and November coming soon to the Pratt Library.



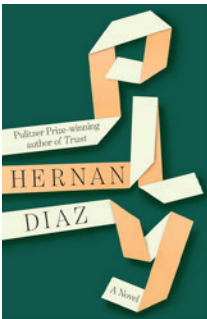
***Threshing Day* by Rebecca Yarros**

The next book in the blockbuster Emyrean series, *Threshing Day* contains 13 stories starring your favorite characters and their dragons.



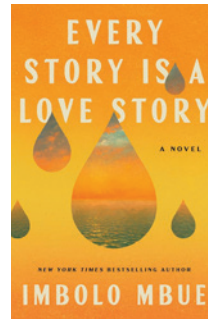
***The French Illusion* by John Grisham**

A gripping, suspenseful page-turner about a Paris honeymoon gone horribly wrong — and the nightmare that follows.



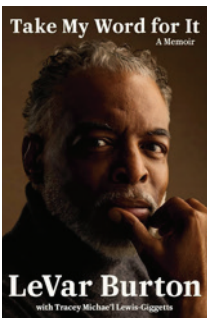
***Ply* by Hernan Diaz**

Centuries from now a “pincher,” someone who steals electricity from the grid to sell it on the black market, stumbles into a rich art and music scene where she powers underground concerts. It also leads her to a colossal scientific invention that could change the very fabric of reality.



***Every Story Is a Love Story* by Imbolo Mbue**

Three years ago, Wolo's wife was killed in a tragic car accident. When Wolo agrees to meet with the driver who was behind the wheel on that terrible day, the compassion and deep remorse of the woman affects him in ways he had never imagined, and he begins to wonder if the long road to healing can be shared.



***Take My Word for It* by LeVar Burton**

The legendary actor behind *Roots*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Reading Rainbow* shares never-before-told stories from a life that has shaped generations — told at last on his own terms.



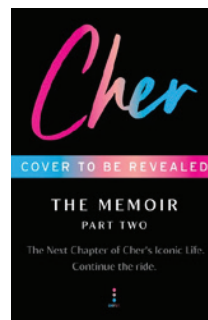
***Partita* by Barbara Kingsolver**

Livia Cable has made her peace with her marriage and modest livelihood in the farm country where she grew up, until a shocking phone call from an old lover shakes her to the core. His request, now, to see her again stirs up ghosts she's kept at bay for a lifetime.



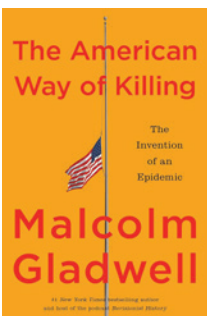
***Taipei Story* by R. F. Kuang**

A wryly humorous and profoundly moving coming-of-age novel that grapples with grief, language, and culture shock — all set against the backdrop of an unforgettable summer in Taipei.



***Cher: Part Two: The Memoir* by Cher**

The next chapter of Cher's iconic life.



***The American Way of Killing* by Malcolm Gladwell**

A provocative investigation of America's epidemic of gun violence. In a sweeping narrative, Gladwell travels from a shooting range in North Carolina, to the South Side of Chicago, to an old plantation house in Alabama, painting a picture of a country that does not understand its most pressing social problem, and as result, does not understand how to fix it.



***American Hagwon* by Min Jin Lee**

Once comfortably middle class in Korea, John and Helen Koh and their three children leave Seoul and eventually settle in Southern California to try to regain their footing. The Kohs navigate new courses across the years, always nursing the almost all-consuming faith that education will lead the next generation to success and security.

SPOOKY SEASON

WRITERS LIVE!



EMILY OGDEN

Darkness Becomes Bright

Monday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

An intimate inquiry into the shadowy life and horrifyingly compelling work of Edgar Allan Poe and why we are drawn to darkness in art. Emily Ogden will be joined in conversation by WYPR's Senior News Analyst Tom Hall.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



ANGELA DITERLIZZI

A Very Scary Book

FREE COPY!

Friday, October 23, 2:00 p.m.
Patterson Park

A humorous, social-emotional story about not judging a book by its cover — even if that cover is super scary!

ADULTS

Cryptid Talk: Monsters of the United States

Monday, October 5, 4:00 p.m. | Brooklyn
Learn about legends like Bigfoot, the Jersey Devil, and Mothman.

Films & Discussion:

The Blair Witch Project (1999)

Monday, October 26, 6:00 p.m.
Johnston Square

Join the Pratt Library and the Women's Housing Coalition for a screening of *The Blair Witch Project*. 1999 | Rated R | 1 hr. 30 min.

Film & Book Discussion:

A Haunting in Venice (2023)

Thursday, October 29, 5:30 p.m. | Waverly
Join us to watch *A Haunting in Venice* and stay for a discussion of both the film and the novel. 2023 | Rated PG-13 | 1 hr. 44 min.

Rare Book Open House:

Horror & Haunted

Friday, October 30, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Central Library

Stop by the Special Collections Reading Room to see rare books on the occult, witchcraft, horror, and other spooky matters. Select items from the Edgar Allan Poe Collection will also be on display.

Adult 'O Ween: A Speed Friendship Event

Saturday, October 31, 1:00 p.m.

Central Library

Join us for Halloween-themed activities and make new friends! Prizes (including for best costume) and refreshments will be provided.

TEENS

Monster Mashup with Risa Reyes

Monday, October 5, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
Learn about mythical monsters. Then create your own. For ages 8 – 14.

Spooky Mask Painting

Tuesday, October 13, 2:30 p.m. | Walbrook
Paint a mask that shows off your imagination and personality.

Teen Zombie Makeup Workshop

Wednesday, October 14, 3:00 p.m.
Central Library
Look frightful and have fun experimenting with special effects makeup techniques.

Spooky Stories & the People Behind Them

Thursday, October 15, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library
Teens and adults are invited to join us for a thrilling panel about creating horror. Featuring Adame Cesare, TT Maden, Jessica McHugh, and Jamie Nash. Moderated by Melissa LaMartina.

Haunted Movie Night: *The Ring*

Thursday, October 22, 5:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Watch horror classic *The Ring*, and try making our own scary videos. Ages 13+ 2002 | Rated PG-13 | 1 hr. 55 min.

Teen Craft: Creepy Baby Doll Head Lanterns

Tuesday, October 27, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Make your own light-up lantern inside a creepy baby doll head!

Teen Book Club: *The Silver Eyes* ✓

Wednesday, October 28, 3:00 p.m. | Waverly
Return to Freddy Fazbear's Pizza in the first book of this horror trilogy based on the video game series, *Five Nights at Freddy's*.

Zombie Heads ✓

Thursday, October 29, 3:00 p.m. | Roland Park
Decorate your own zombie head with a plethora of crafting supplies.

Fuzzy Velvet Coloring: Día de los Muertos Edition

Thursday, November 5, 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Come and celebrate Day of the Dead by coloring some fuzzy velvet posters.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Graphic Novel Book Club: Spooky Campfire Stories

Monday, October 5, 5:30 p.m.
Johnston Square
Discuss your favorite spooky graphic novels while we make summer camp-inspired beaded bracelets.

A Spooky Science Show with the Science Guys of Baltimore

Saturday, October 10, 12:30 p.m.
Central Library
Join the Science Guys of Baltimore for a spooky science show. Learn to make the spooky call of a screeching owl, create bubbling potions, make hair stand up, turn into glow in the dark creatures, perform amazing optical illusions and MORE!

Tissue Paper Pumpkins

Thursday, October 15, 11:00 a.m.
Roland Park
Decorate a tissue paper pumpkin for a spooky treat!

Boo-tiful Ghost Craft

Tuesday, October 20, 10:30 a.m. | Hamilton
Join us for a spook-tacular storytime featuring *The Teeny Tiny Ghost!*

Spooky Storytime & Craft

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 a.m.
Johnston Square
Enjoy seasonal stories, songs, and rhymes, then stay for a fun themed craft to take home. Costumes are welcome!

Crafternoon: Create Your Own Monster

Monday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Use household items to create your own monster. It could be silly, scary, or friendly. It's completely up to you!

Crafternoon: Pumpkin Decorating

Tuesday, October 27, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Decorate your very own pumpkin that will stick around the whole year.

Spooky Slime Time!

Tuesday, October 27, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Join us as we make a spooky version of the classic science experiment.

Let's Play! One Night Ultimate Werewolf

Friday, October 30, 3:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Players will determine who among them is a werewolf...hopefully.

SPOTLIGHT ON HERRING RUN



ADULTS

Stepping at Pratt

Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a dance-exercise program that incorporates many types of music (mostly hip-hop) and zumba! This dance exercise group meets weekly — come get your groove on!

Film: *Project Hail Mary*

Saturday, September 12, 2:00 p.m.

Astronaut Ryland Grace wakes from a coma afflicted with amnesia. He gradually remembers that he was sent to find a means of reversing a solar dimming event that could cause the extinction of humanity. 2026 | Rated PG-13 | 2 hr. 36 min.

Herring Run Writer's Club

Thursday, October 8, 6:00 p.m.

We welcome writers of all levels to come improve your writing skills and share your work.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



AMELIA BOTHE
Mia's Cheetah
FREE COPY!

Friday, October 2, 4:00 p.m. | Herring Run

With playful, not-to-be-missed illustrations and a tender family twist, *Mia's Cheetah* celebrates the power of imagination waiting just outside our windows.

TEENS

Manga Club

Tuesdays, September 1 & October 6

3:30 p.m.

Join us for manga discussions and anime show reviews!

Teen Game Night

Tuesdays, September 8, October 13, &

November 10, 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a night of gaming. Enjoy video games on the Nintendo Switch and PlayStation 5!

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Friday Crafternoon: Ethiopian New Year!

Friday, September 11, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for an afterschool crafting session, where we will be learning and celebrating Ethiopian New Year, welcoming the year 2019 (EC) with our very own Meskel daisies.

Drawing Club

Thursdays, September 17, October 22, &

November 19, 3:30 p.m.

Come to the Herring Run Branch to sketch, cartoon, and doodle to your heart's content. Learn different techniques to improve your drawing skills. Supplies will be provided.

Pirate Day Treasure Hunt!

Saturday, September 19, 3:00 p.m.

Arrgh, mateys! Come celebrate Talk Like a Pirate Day and find all the hidden treasure chests at the library for a fun prize.

BUILDING UPDATES

Work continues at the Washington Village Branch! With building renovations nearly complete, next steps include installing furniture, equipment, and collections. Check out some sneak peek photos above!

Learn more at
prattlibrary.org/renovation-plan

FALL FUN



Y	R	A	S	T	H	P	B	I	E	H	C	T	I	W	H
K	S	C	L	C	P	G	S	L	I	M	E	S	D	G	O
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V	G	S	P	R	O	K	Y	O	Z	O	M	B	I	E	G

WORD SEARCH

Find all the words listed below. Words may appear forwards, backwards, up, down, or diagonally.

CANDY	PUMPKIN
GHOST	RAKE
GOURD	SCHOOL
GRATITUDE	SLIME
HALLOWEEN	SPOOKY
HAUNT	THANKSGIVING
LANTERN	TURKEY
LEAVES	WITCH
MONSTER	ZOMBIE
PIE	



ADULTS

Candle Making Workshop

Thursday, September 10, 5:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Celebrate the cozy transition into fall by creating your own custom-scented candle.

Autumn Accents:

Decorative Pumpkins and Acorns

Saturday, September 19, 1:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave.

Create decorative pumpkins and acorns for your home with a few simple supplies.

Pumpkin Decorating & Chill Vibes

Saturday, October 17, 1:00 p.m. | Brooklyn
Decorate a pumpkin! Enjoy chill music and share excitement for the fall with friends while enjoying pumpkin spice tea.

Thankful Bingo

Wednesday, November 18, 2:00 p.m.
Cherry Hill

Celebrate the season, connect with others, and play for a chance to win prizes.

TEENS

Stitch Your Own Back-to-School Notebook

Wednesday, September 9, 3:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave.

Get ready and get organized in our back-to-school program, where you can assemble your own custom notebook!

Gratitude Journal

Wednesday, November 18, 3:30 p.m.
Orleans St.

Personalize your own gratitude journal with art supplies, stickers, and writing prompts!

Suncatcher Keychains

Thursday, November 19, 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Pick between different leaves and fall colors to create your own suncatcher keychain. You can even make one that glows in the dark!

Teen Activity: 3D Doodling Turkeys

Tuesday, November 24, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
Create a classic hand turkey, but with a 3D twist using a 3D Doodler 3D printing pen!

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Fall Fest

Saturday, September 26, 10:30 a.m. | Govans
Celebrate the season featuring Mary's Go Round Petting Zoo, crafts, face painting, entertainment, and refreshments. Sponsored by the Friends of the Govans Library.

Crafternoon: Leaf Craft

Monday, October 19, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Use brightly colored leaves to make a festive creation.

Thankful Tree

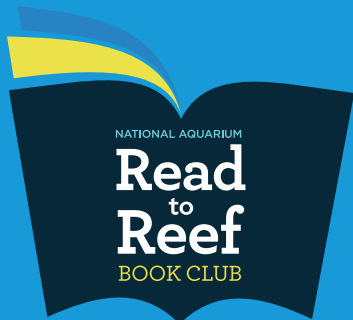
Thursday, November 12, 3:00 p.m.
Northwood
We're making a fall-themed tree with expressions of things we're thankful for!

Turkey Tales & Crafts

Tuesday, November 17, 10:30 a.m. | Hamilton
Enjoy a fun storytime with Run, Turkey, Run! then make a colorful paper plate turkey with feathers!



ENOCH PRATT *free* LIBRARY
400 Cathedral St Baltimore, Md 21201



READ TO REEF

Baltimore-area students in fifth grade or younger can earn free admission to the National Aquarium by joining the Read to Reef Book Club. Bookmarks available October 1 – 31, while supplies last.

Visit us online for Read to Reef programs and more information about participating!

prattlibrary.org/read-to-reef



Compass

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Writers LIVE!
- The City that Reads
- STEM Fest and more!