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Compass

Winter 2026 – 2027



BLACK POLITICAL LEADERS IN MARYLAND: A LEGACY

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LOCATIONS

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ALL PRATT LOCATIONS WILL BE CLOSED:
Christmas Day: *Friday, December 25*
New Year's Day: *Friday, January 1*
Martin Luther King Day: *Monday, January 18*
Presidents' Day: *Monday, February 15*

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.

the City that Reads

MEET THE LATEST READERS!



Bridget, Hampden Branch
"I've been a reader my whole life. My mom taught me to read before I started school, and it's something that I've always taken great pleasure in, and it's been an important escape for life. I'm an elementary school teacher, so I love to read picture books with my kids in school."



Vanessa, Central Library
"I think the first book I read that I remember was *Black Girl Lost*. I was in maybe second grade, so it was definitely too old for me, but I read it again as an adult and it was an amazing book."



Julia, Central Library
"I think probably one of the more recent books that I think had a really big impact was *Red, White and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston. I think that was probably one of the first books that I saw in the mainstream — you could just go to Target or anywhere in the world and see just a regular queer book out on display, and that had a huge impact. So that was really important to me. Also, being bisexual, seeing another bisexual lead in a book, also one who grew up bilingual. I really related to that character."

The City That Reads is an ongoing project featuring avid readers from across Baltimore who 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.

To read all the interviews visit prattlibrary.org/city-reads or scan the QR code.

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SHARE THE LOVE

Scan the QR code or visit **prattlibrary.org/valentines-cards** to download library valentines and check out valentines events going on at your library!



LETTER FROM THE CEO



Winter is here, Baltimore! Recently, I've been spending a lot of time walking around the city, taking in the crisp air, and appreciating the unmistakably Baltimore beauty of it all. I encourage you, dear *Compass* reader, to get out there and explore them as well.

Granted, sometimes the hardest part of getting out and about is figuring out where you want to go, but the great thing about Baltimore is that you are never too far from a Pratt library. Pratt has locations across the city and in neighborhoods that are filled with culture, amazing architecture, and rich histories to enjoy.

So, like me, you can take a city stroll to check out your new favorite read, and as we move into a new year, consider visiting our libraries more often in person or discovering a new-to-you library branch as one of your New Year's resolutions.

Having been a Baltimore resident for over two years at this point and having lived in many different cities throughout the country, something exceptional that still stands out to me is the long legacy of Black leaders that were pivotal in the political history of Maryland, and truly, the nation as a whole.

The Pratt is extremely proud of our latest exhibit, *Black Political Leaders in Maryland: A Legacy*, which is currently on display throughout our historic Central Library. Our goal in its curation was to share the triumphs, impact, and journey of the groundbreaking and influential Black leaders that came out of Maryland as well as the community groups, organizations, and individuals that supported their work and accomplishments.

Speaking of the monumental impact of the Black community, the Pratt celebrates Black History and Black Heritage all year round. This February, we have several standout programs and events to share, including a performance from the New World Outreach Jazz Orchestra, Black storytelling with Griot Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith, Afrofuturism Art, and many more fun and educational options to enjoy with your friends, family, and community. Also, one of my highlights of February is our annual Booklovers' Breakfast event where we get to meet some of the most enthusiastic readers in our Pratt community while hearing from a truly amazing Black author. I do hope to be able to meet some of you there.

Be well, enjoy life, and I'll see you at the library!

Chad Helton, President & CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH THE CEO

Thursday, January 14, 6:00 p.m. | Walbrook

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, December 16 at 5:15 p.m. Visit prattlibrary.org for details.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

ADULTS

Stepping at Pratt
Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. | Herring Run
This fun, upbeat dance-exercise program blends energetic moves, Zumba, and a variety of music — with plenty of hip-hop favorites to keep you moving.

Stop Smoking with Tobacco Free Baltimore
Tuesdays, December 8, January 12, & February 9, 2:30 p.m. | Central Library
Smoking cessation classes that will provide health information, coping skills, and further guidance needed to complete the smoke-free journey.

Free HIV & Hep-C Testing
Thursdays, December 17, January 21, & February 18, 10:00 a.m. | Central Library
Get tested for HIV and Hepatitis C for free at the Central Library. Staff from Chase Brexton Health Care will offer confidential testing in a private space.

Red Cross Blood Drive ☑
Saturday, December 26
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Central Library
We're pleased to host the American Red Cross to collect blood from our community. Potential donors will go through a screening process, donate a pint of blood, and receive a snack afterward.

New Year, New You Vision Board ☑
Thursday, January 7, 5:30 p.m. | Waverly
Join us for an evening of intention-setting and creative vision-boarding! Bring your dreams, goals, and vision for the year ahead.

Vision Board Workshop ☑
Saturday, January 9, 2:00 p.m. | Govans
Create a collage of visual images or words that represent the life you want to live in 2027 and beyond.

Create a New Year's Papercut ☑
Saturday, January 9, 2:00 p.m. | Waverly
Papercut artist Annie Howe will introduce participants to the basic techniques of papercutting in this hands-on workshop. Create a New Year's papercut inspired by a word or theme that is meaningful to you in the new year.

TEENS

Teen Activity: New Year's Journals
Thursday, December 17, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
Get ready for the new year by making idea journals to keep your thoughts, dreams, and other things in.

Teen Crafts: Vision Boards
Tuesday, December 29, 3:00 p.m. | Waverly
Where will 2027 take you? Design your own vision board for you future.

Teen Activity: New Year, New Me
Tuesday, January 12, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
Learn how to take photographs the old-fashioned way with instant cameras, and decorate your photos! Create a brand new look just in time for the new year.

New Year's Goal Jar
Thursday, January 14, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Decorate a jar and fill it with goals, dreams, encouraging messages, and things you want to accomplish throughout the year.

Kitchen Science: Healthy Snacks
Tuesday, January 26, 3:30 p.m. | Light St.
Learn how to make nutritious, tasty after-school snacks to boost your brain energy with Julie Eugenio from TasteWise Kids.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Crafternoon: Scratch Paper Fireworks
Monday, December 28, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Get ready to celebrate the new year by creating some brightly colored fireworks. We'll be using scratch paper to reveal rainbow designs.

Noon Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31, 11:30 a.m.
Johnston Square
Who says you have to stay up until midnight to ring in the New Year? Join us for a kid-friendly celebration where we'll countdown to noon instead!

Junk Journaling for Kids
Monday, January 4, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Start 2027 with a fun, new hobby — junk journaling! Learn how you can recycle various materials to document your life.

Resolution Buttons
Wednesday, January 6, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
New goals for a new year! What do you want to accomplish in 2027? Make a button to inspire you throughout the year.

Craft Cinema: Y2K Party ft. *Shrek* (2001)
Thursday, January 7, 3:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Ring in the New Year with a blast from the past! Enjoy a screening of Shrek, *make beaded friendship bracelets, and create your very own retro sand art.*

Picture Your NEW Year!
Monday, January 11, 3:00 p.m.
Patterson Park
Dream big and get creative! Create a colorful collage inspired by your hopes and wishes for the new year.

Afternoon Movie & Craft: *Turning Red*
Friday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. | Waverly
Celebrate Lunar New Year with this quirky K-Pop themed movie and craft.
2022 | Rated PG | 1 hr. 40 min.

LIVE MUSIC

PEABODY AT THE LIBRARY
Saturday, December 5, 2:00 p.m.
Hampden
Saturday, December 12, 3:00 p.m.
Canton

WINTER JAZZ CONCERT WITH THE NEW WORLD OUTREACH JAZZ ORCHESTRA
Monday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.
Northwood

MT. VERNON VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Friday, December 18, 12:00 p.m.
Central Library

VIDEO GAME MUSIC: THE SONIC EDGE WITH RAVITA JAZZ
Friday, January 15, 2:30 p.m. | Walbrook

JAZZ IN THE CITY: GREGORY THOMPKINS ENSEMBLE
Thursday, February 18, 5:00 p.m.
Johnston Square

☑ This event requires or recommends registration. Visit calendar.prattlibrary.org for registration info and complete details on each program.

LIGHTS, CAMERAS, BOOKS!

Students in grades 6 – 12 are invited to read a book, create a video trailer, and enter their creations into a contest held by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and Baltimore City Public Schools.

Learn more at **prattlibrary.org/lights-cameras-books** or scan the QR code below.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Script Writing
Wednesday, December 9, 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.
Northwood

Teen Movie Club: *Twilight*
Monday, January 4, 3:30 p.m. | Johnston Square

Teen Script Writing
Monday, January 11, 3:30 p.m. | Johnston Square

Multimedia Book-to-Movie Posters
Thursday, January 7, 3:00 p.m. | Edmondson Ave.

Teen Activity: Stop-Motion Animation Workshop
Thursdays, January 14 & 28, 3:00 p.m. | Govans

Movies at the Library: *The Raven*
Thursday, January 21, 4:00 p.m. | Edmondson Ave.

Teen Green Screen
Thursday, January 28, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton

Guess the Anime/Manga
Thursday, February 4, 3:30 p.m. | Southeast Anchor Library

Script Writing 101
Wednesday, February 17, 2:30 p.m. | Walbrook

D&D Movie Night & Storytelling Discussion
Thursday, February 18, 4:00 p.m. | Light St.

Open Source Video Editing 101 for Trailers & Short Form Media
Tuesday, February 23, 3:00 p.m. | Patterson Park



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



ALL AGES

New World Outreach Jazz Orchestra
Saturday, February 6, 2:30 p.m. | Northwood
Enjoy music honoring the creativity, innovation, and cultural contributions of Black jazz musicians and composers.

Songs of Justice & Freedom with Ravita Jazz
Saturday, February 20, 3:00 p.m. | Light St.
This concert focuses on the history of the civil rights movement from the late 1800s to today, told through Jazz.

ADULTS

Black History Trivia
Wednesday, February 3, 3:00 p.m.
Patterson Park
Test your knowledge about the many contributions that have shaped American history and beyond.

Check Out the Mic! Bob Marley Karaoke
Friday, February 5, 12:00 p.m. | Orleans St.
Celebrate Bob Marley's 82nd Birthday with an afternoon of music, karaoke, and good vibes!

Pass It On: Storytelling in Baltimore Workshop
Monday, February 8, 1:00 p.m.
Central Library
Learn production methods, with hands-on practice, so you can create an oral history project from start to finish.

Pass It On: Black Storytelling in Baltimore Slam!
Tuesday, February 9, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library
Step up and share your story in the oral tradition of Griot Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith, a Baltimore educator who created a national movement of storytelling in the African oral tradition.

Rhythm & Roots: Black History Music Bingo ☑
Thursday, February 18, 2:00 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Enjoy a lively game of music bingo featuring songs and artists from Motown, soul, jazz, R&B, and more.

Films & Discussion: *Malcolm X* (1992)
Monday, February 22, 4:00 p.m.
Johnston Square
This biography reveals the man at the center of a storm of change. This event is in partnership with the Women's Housing Coalition. 1992 | Rated PG-13 | 3 hr. 22 min.

Black History Month Bingo ☑
Thursday, February 25, 5:30 p.m. | Waverly
Join us for trivia bingo with a special spotlight on Black authors.

TEENS

Uniquely Me: Self-Portraits Inspired by Brianna McCarthy
Tuesday, December 8, 3:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave
Thursday, February 4, 3:30 p.m. | Light St.
Monday, February 8, 3:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Guided by an instructor from Art with a Heart, participants will explore the work of self-taught artist Brianna McCarthy and her vibrant, collage-inspired portraits. Participants will then create their own self-portraits using patterned paper, layering, and mixed-media techniques.

Afrofuturism Art
Wednesday, December 16, 3:30 p.m.
Orleans St.
Monday, February 1, 3:30 p.m.
Johnston Square
Tuesday, February 9, 3:30 p.m. | Govans
Join us to learn about Afrofuturism and create artwork inspired by future worlds, technology, and culture.

Black Filmmakers
Thursday, January 28, 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Monday, February 8, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Learn about influential filmmakers, discuss cinematic black history, and develop your own film concepts and ideas inspired by Black culture and experiences.

Black History Game Show ☑
Tuesday, February 2, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Work in teams to test your knowledge of famous Black figures, music, sports, inventions, and more.

Black Superhero Showcase
Thursday, February 11, 3:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave.
Check out comics from our collection, design your own superhero mask, and watch media celebrating Black superheroes while chatting about your own favorite heroes.

Teen Activity: Black History Month Patches
Thursday, February 11, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
Create wearable patches with protest slogans while learning about the history of Black activism in the US.

African American History & Heritage Buttons
Monday, February 15, 3:30 p.m. | Herring Run
Celebrate African American heritage and Black History Month with the creation of your own unique button.

Redesign a Cover
Thursday, February 25, 3:30 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Choose a book by a Black author or featuring Black characters and create your own cover!

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Civil Rights Silhouettes
Wednesday, January 13, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Commemorate notable civil rights leaders with silhouette portraits.

Letters to Dr. King
Tuesday, January 19, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Write a letter to the reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Underground Railroad: Paper Quilt Squares
Monday, February 1, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Learn about the history and symbolism embedded in quilts and make your own paper quilt square.

Paint Like an Artist: Alma Thomas
Monday, February 1, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Create your very own piece of abstract art inspired by the works of Alma Thomas.

Black History Trivia Puzzles
Thursday, February 4, 3:00 p.m.
Northwood
Come solve puzzles using your knowledge of Black History. You can work together or take turns and see who is the fastest solver!

Black History Month: Make Your Own Abayomi Dolls
Thursday, February 11, 3:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Celebrate Black History Month with a traditional Yoruba craft! Learn the meaning behind the West African Abayomi doll, then create your very own.

Baltimore Buzz: Baltimore's Jazz Giants
Saturday, February 20, 11:00 a.m.
Edmondson Ave.
Learn about the lives and music of three legendary Black musicians born in Baltimore — Eubie Blake, Chick Webb, and Billie Holiday — then create your own musical instruments to join in the band.

Black Political Leaders in Maryland

A Legacy



The history of Maryland cannot be told without honoring its Black politicians. From William H. Butler, the first Black man elected to any public office in the state in 1873, to Angela Alsobrooks, the first Black woman from Maryland elected to the U.S. Senate in 2024, this legacy is defined by a long succession of fearless leadership that continues to this day.

"Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."

—Thurgood Marshall

The Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to present *Black Political Leaders in Maryland: A Legacy*, a celebration of our state's Black elected officials and the community members and organizations that work side by side with them. The exhibit is divided into five sections and spans two floors of our historic Central Library, with historical photographs and biographical spotlights on both iconic figures and unsung heroes throughout Maryland's history.



FIRSTS!
Central Hall, First Floor

For more than 150 years and counting, Maryland's Black leaders have shattered barriers and ceilings alike, leading the way for generations of elected officials and activists. In this section, you'll learn about such figures as Harry Sythe Cummings, the first Black man elected to Baltimore City Council in 1890; Victorine Q. Adams, the first Black woman elected to Baltimore City Council in1966, who also founded the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee in 1946; and Verda F. Welcome, the first Black woman elected to Maryland House of Delegates 1958 and to the Maryland State Senate in 1962.


The Afro-American.

CHRISTIAN MEN

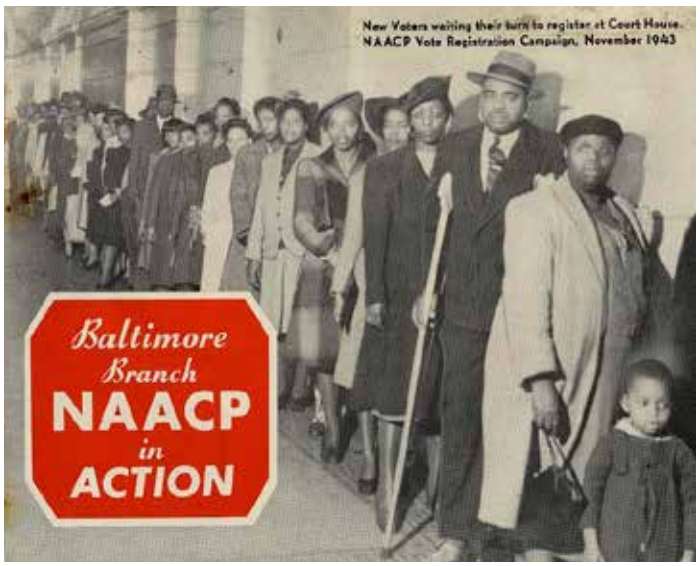
KILLED BY A CAR.

THE PRESS: *THE AFRO-AMERICAN*

Periodicals Department, First Floor

Founded in Baltimore on August 13, 1892, *The Afro-American* has championed civil rights, racial equality, and economic opportunity for Black Americans for more than 130 years. It is the nation's longest continuously published Black family-owned newspaper and one of the oldest Black-owned businesses in the United States.

In this section you'll learn about founder John H. Murphy Sr., who was born into slavery and gained his freedom through service in the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War, and how his legacy is now carried by his granddaughter Dr. Frances Murphy Draper, who has expanded the newspaper's digital reach, strengthened community partnerships, and launched impactful platforms such as the AFRO Digital Billboard Network and *The Afro Table* newsletter.



COMMUNITY CATALYSTS

Social Science & History Department, First Floor

Baltimore's unique history is closely tied to influential organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Baltimore Urban League. These groups and other community associations brought people together to strengthen the collective cause of social and civic justice through democracy. By leveraging an array of strategies including voting, campaigning, pursuing legal cases, boycotting, protesting, and grassroots organizing, these groups brought about political change in Maryland and the United States.



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND

Annex, First Floor

By drafting and sponsoring legislation to address constituent needs — and by examining all bills that affect the Black populace — the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland (LBCMD) acts as a legislative body on behalf of the Black community. The Caucus also presents a Black perspective to the Legislature and advocates for public policies that promote Black progress. Additionally, the LBCMD serves as a research study group to generate pertinent data in support of appropriate public policies to advance growth and opportunities in Maryland's Black community and other marginalized communities.



BALTIMORE CITY: MAYORS AND CITY COUNCIL

Second Floor

Baltimore has long been a majority-Black city, yet it did not have a Black mayor until 1987. That year, City Council President Clarence H. "Du" Burns assumed the office when William Donald Schaefer stepped down to become Governor of Maryland.

With the exception of Martin O'Malley's tenure from 1999 to 2007, Baltimore has had a Black mayor ever since. The seven mayors in this section all built extensive careers in local and state politics before taking office, having served in roles such as city council member and city council president as well as various positions in state government.

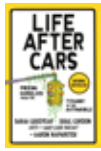
Adrienne Jones, who made history as the first Black person and first woman to serve as Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, said: "I've learned that even when no one is looking, you keep working. You do what's right. And no matter how big or small your role is, public service matters." *Black Political Leaders in Maryland: A Legacy* honors the vision, passion, and transformative nature of Black public service.

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!





SARAH GOODYEAR & DOUG GORDON

Life After Cars

Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

Through historical records, revealing interviews, and unflinching statistics, *Life After Cars* unpacks the scale of damage that cars cause, the forces that have created our current crisis and are invested in perpetuating it, and the way that the fight for better transportation is deeply linked to the fight for a more equitable and just society.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!




MICAH JOHNSON

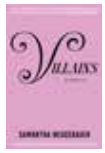
Aku: Battle For Pyra **FREE COPY!**

Monday, January 11, 4:00 p.m. | Patterson Park

After saving the planet Ibra from a ruthless space militia, Aku is ready for a break. But when his grandfather announces an urgent mission to the fiery, lava-filled planet Pyra, Aku and his friends end up on their most dangerous mission yet.







AN EVENING WITH EMILY HOLLAND & SAMANTHA NEUGEBAUER

Thursday, February 4, 6:30 p.m. | Central Library & Virtual

Join us for a reading and conversation with poet Emily Holland and fiction writer Samantha Neugebauer. Both authors are winners of the press's book prizes: *Notifications On* by Emily Holland won the 2025 Jean Feldman Poetry Prize, while *Villains* by Samantha Neugebauer won the 2025 Fiction Prize.

FICTION & CONVERSATION




JOHANNES LICHTMAN

Intention

Saturday, February 6, 3:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

How many lives can collide over the course of a single spring day? A chance encounter sets in motion a chain of reckonings that exposes the fault lines between art, ethics, and responsibility. Johannes Lichtman will be joined in conversation by *New York Times*-bestselling author Eric Puchner.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!




KATE MESSNER

Keep the Ghost Light On **FREE COPY!**

Friday, February 26, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton

A haunted Broadway theater. A ghost demanding justice. Three kids who must follow the clues to unlock the past.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Read With Pride ☑
Saturdays, December 5, January 2, & February 6, 11:00 a.m.
Light St.
December: These Heathens *by Mia McKenzie*
January: Gaysians *by Mike Curato*
February: Sister Outsider *by Audre Lorde*

Coffee and Classics Book Club
Tuesdays, December 8, January 12, & February 9, 11:00 a.m.
Light St.
December: A Christmas Carol *by Charles Dickens*
January: One Hundred Years of Solitude *by Gabriel Garcia Marquez*
February: Not Without Laughter *by Langston Hughes*

Teen Book Club
Saturday, December 19, 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, January 13 & February 24, 3:00 p.m.
Waverly
December: The Hunger Games *by Suzanne Collins*
January: The Lightning Thief *by Rick Riordan*
February: Children of Blood and Bone *by Tomi Adeyemi*

Cherry Hill Book Discussion ☑
Mondays, December 21 & January 25, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 25, 2:00 p.m.
Cherry Hill
December: Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes *by Sandra Jackson-Opoku*
January: Ghalen: A Romance in Black *by Walter Mosley*
February: The Darkest Child *by Delores Phillips*

Page Turners
Mondays, December 21, January 25, & February 22, 6:00 p.m.
Roland Park
December: On the Calculation of Volume IV *by Solvej Balle*
January: The Zone of Interest *by Martin Amis*
February: Women Without Men *by Shahrnush Parsipur*

Tome Raiders: Adult Book Club
Mondays, December 28, January 25, & February 22, 6:30 p.m.
Hamilton
December: The Inheritance of Orquidea Divina *by Zoraida Cordova*
January: Pushing Ice *by Alastair Reynolds*
February: James *by Percival Everett*

Northwood Book Discussion
Thursdays, January 28 & February 25, 6:00 p.m.
Northwood
January: Lady in the Lake *by Laura Lippman*
February: Happy Land *by Dolen Perkins-Valdez*

Writers LIVE! programs are supported in part by a bequest from The Miss Howard Hubbard Adult Programming Fund and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios, www.BakerArtist.org.

☑ This event requires or recommends registration. Visit calendar.prattlibrary.org for registration info and complete details on each program.

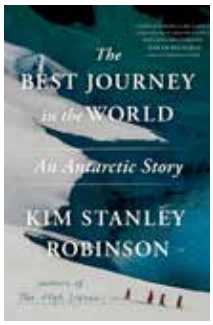
WHAT'S NEW

Here are the most anticipated books of December, January, and February coming soon to the Pratt Library.



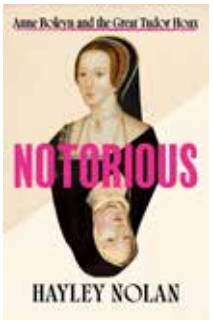
The Bridge by Colm Tóibín

A gorgeous and gutting short novel about grief and desire. With meticulous precision and an unerring eye, Tóibín captures lives caught between the past and the present, and the devastating journey of a young man seeking connection, haunted by loss.



The Best Journey in the World: An Antarctic Story by Kim Stanley Robinson

Interweaving memoir, some never-before-published photographs, and good old fashioned ice adventure, Kim Stanley Robinson takes readers along on the Arctic journeys that have happened before and the journeys that may never happen again.



Notorious: Anne Boleyn and the Great Tudor Hoax by Hayley Nolan

The explosive narrative of Elizabeth Barton, an audacious young girl who conned her way to the center of King Henry VIII's divorce scandal and went head-to-head with Anne Boleyn.



The Stars Look Like Home by TJ Klune

A joyful, moving adventure about a dog in search of his person — and his place in the universe.



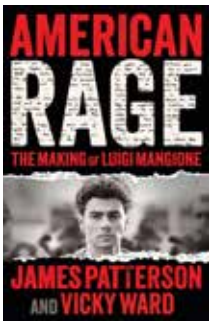
Eclipse & the Wolf by Akwaeke Emezi

Enter St. Paradise, a city pulsing with blood magic, where clan secrets and shifting allegiances rule the land.



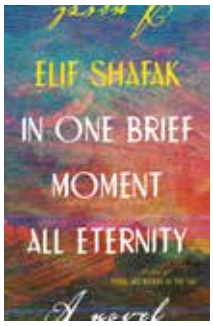
Weird Era: How Pitchfork Changed Music Forever by Ryan Schreiber

Pitchfork's founder opens up about running the most influential, and infamous, music publication of the internet age. A compulsively readable and revealing memoir of fandom, music, media, and the power of trusting your gut.



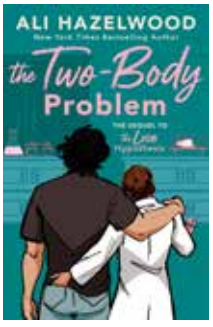
American Rage: The Making of Luigi Mangione by James Patterson & Vicky Ward

This groundbreaking work of investigative reporting is a deep dive into the controversial motives of a shocking crime and its complex aftermath. In *American Rage*, the revelations never stop.



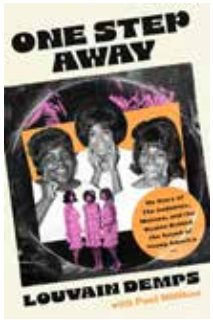
In One Brief Moment All Eternity by Elif Shafak

During a time of great turmoil, Gustave Flaubert created literature's most scandalous heroine: Madame Bovary. He then poisoned her with arsenic. But what if, 175 years later, Emma — and the women history overlooked — could seize the quill from his hands and tell a different story?



The Two-Body Problem by Ali Hazelwood

The highly anticipated sequel to the instant *New York Times* and global bestselling phenomenon, *The Love Hypothesis*. Being with Adam is the most real thing Olive has ever known. So as the pressure tightens and the stakes rise, she'll have to set all confounding variables aside and learn to trust her heart.



One Step Away by Louvain Demps

Part overlooked history, part heartfelt reminiscence, part cultural reckoning, *One Step Away* is the missing story of the women who made Motown sing. Informative and entertaining, it restores The Andantes to their rightful place in American music and popular culture, alongside the legends whose voices they helped immortalize.

SPOTLIGHT ON HAMILTON



ADULTS

Line Dancing for Beginners ☑
Saturdays, December 5 & January 16
10:00 a.m.
Learn the latest, classic, and popular line dances, all while getting fit and having fun on the floor.

Puzzle Pandemonium ☑
Saturday, December 5, 11:00 a.m.
Do you love puzzles? Work together in a small group to complete a puzzle. The first group finished wins a small prize. Let the puzzling begin! Supported by the Friends of the Hamilton Library.

Tuesday Matinee: *Dear Santa* (2024)
Tuesday, December 8, 10:30 a.m.
When a young boy mails his Christmas wish list to Santa with one crucial spelling error, a devilish Jack Black arrives to wreak havoc on the holidays. 2024 | Rated PG-13
1 hr. 48 min.

Your Turn: Board Game Group
Saturdays, December 12, January 9, & February 13, 1:00 p.m.
It's an afternoon of tabletop gaming! This monthly meetup may include card, board, or party-style games. Come one, come all!

Line Dancing For Experts ☑
Saturdays, December 19, February 6 & 20
10:00 a.m.
Saturday, January 2, 12:00 p.m.
Come dance to the classic and popular line dances, all while getting fit and having fun on the floor.

Artful Afternoons ☑
Saturdays, December 19, January 30, & February 20, 2:00 p.m.
An artist teaches painting with step-by-step instructions. Follow a different theme each month.
December: Unwind
January: Health and Wellness
February: Love

Tuesday Matinee: *Project Hail Mary*
Tuesday, January 12, 10:30 a.m.
In the near future, astronaut Ryland Grace wakes from a coma afflicted with amnesia. He gradually remembers that he was sent to the Tau Ceti solar system, 12 light-years from Earth, 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.

Tuesday Matinee: *The Color Purple*
Tuesday, February 9, 10:30 a.m.
From 1909 to 1949, Celie, a Southern Black woman, gradually gains self-respect as she strives to educate herself and to find love — despite an abusive spouse and a society biased against her race and her sex.
1985 | Rated PG-13 | 2 hr. 34 min.

TEENS

Hamilton Teen Drop-In
Mondays – Fridays, 3:00 p.m.
A welcoming drop-in space for teens ages 12 – 18 to hang out, socialize, create, play games, listen to music, work on homework, and connect with other teens.

DIY Ita-Bag Workshop
Wednesday, December 2, 3:00 p.m.
The literal translation may be "Pain-Bag," but these fandom-devoted accessories don't have to be painful to build. Bring your own in-progress Ita-Bag, or any bag that you don't mind making some modifications to. No bag? That's okay! We'll be making photocards, buttons, keychains, and other decorations you can put on anything.

Winter STEM Challenge: Gingerbread Engineering
Monday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.
Teens are invited to work individually or in teams to design and build a structure using gingerbread and other materials.

Teen Yoga & Exploratory Movement
Wednesday, February 3, 3:30 p.m.
Join us after school for some movement and mindfulness with a professional yoga instructor. We will work through various yoga poses, breath exercises, and playful movement activities to work through our energy and stress. All supplies provided.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Cozy Mitten Craft
Monday, January 11, 10:30 a.m.
Snuggle up for a cozy reading of The Mitten *by Jan Brett! After the story, kids can decorate their own winter mitten craft.*

3D Print Lab
Wednesday, January 20, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Design a 3D-printed miniature at home and print it out at the Hamilton Branch

Science Heroes Presents: Digging It!
Tuesday, February 2, 3:00 p.m.
Join Science Heroes on their mission to turn science into an adventure! Unearth your curiosity as we dig into the incredible science that's all around us! Harness the power of pressure and energy; experiment with physical vs. chemical changes; and observe the effects of physical explosions, angles, and trajectory. Don't miss this exciting and interactive STEM learning adventure!

☑ This event requires or recommends registration. Visit calendar.prattlibrary.org for registration info and complete details on each program.

MR. PRATT PRESENTS

On Saturday, November 7, the Library held its annual gala, Mr. Pratt Presents..., featuring author and broadcast journalist Scott Pelley in conversation with WYPR's Tom Hall and presenting Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown with the Carla D. Hayden Award for Distinguished Service. Thank you to our gala co-chairs Barbara Bozzuto and Jamar R. Brown, sponsors, and guests that helped raise over $632,000 to support the Library's free programs and services.























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John Meyerhoff and Lenel Srochi-Meyerhoff

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Mary Ann Scully

WINTER WONDERLAND

ADULTS

Create Your Saturday: Mitten Button Art ☑
Saturday, December 5, 1:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave.
Construct cute winter-themed art out of felt, buttons, and a picture frame. This project is suitable for beginning crafters and requires no sewing.

Winter Open House
Thursday, December 10, 6:00 p.m. | Light St.
Join us for our annual Open House sponsored by the Friends of the Light Street Branch. Come share good cheer, jazz, and holiday tunes provided by the Philtones. Fun for all ages!

Kwanzaa Trivia Night
Thursday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library
Join the African American Department in celebrating Kwanzaa with a trivia night.

Rare Book Open House: Winter
Friday, December 18, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Central Library
Stop by the Special Collections Reading Room to see rare books and ephemera celebrating winter and the holidays of the season! Select items from the Greeting Cards Collection will also be on display.

Whimsical Winter: Snowflake Prints ☑
Saturday, January 16, 2:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Explore the versatile nature of gelliplate printing and create winter-themed artwork. Facilitated by Marian McLaughlin

A Hygge Happening
Saturday, January 23, 2:00 p.m.
Central Library
Embrace the season with hygge and stop by our reading nook, spend time on handiwork, pen a letter, or just enjoy the ambiance.

TEENS

Silly Seasonal Green Screen Photos
Wednesday, December 2, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Central Library
Learn about green screens and take a funny winter photo by yourself or with friends.

Guerrilla Art: Winter Snowflake Crafts
Tuesday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.
Fridays, January 15 & February 19, 3:00 p.m.
Light St.
December: Snowflake Bookmarks
January: Crochet Snowflakes
February: Snowflake Bookmarks

Movie & Craft: The Grinch (2018)
Wednesday, December 23, 3:30 p.m.
Orleans St.
Let's make a "Grinch" ornament while watching How the Grinch Stole Christmas.
2018 | Rated PG | 1 hr. 30 min.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Winter Wonderland Sparkle Slime!
Tuesday, December 1, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Join us for a seasonal twist on everyone's favorite STEAM activity.

Chanukah Spark Attack with Eric Energy
Tuesday, December 1, 4:00 p.m.
Johnston Square
Monday, December 7, 3:30 p.m. | Light St.
Enjoy the story of Chanukah told through Science experiments. Learn about what it takes to light the menorah, see vortex fog gelt and enjoy a "festival of laser light."

Wrapping Paper Crafternoon
Friday, December 4, 3:30 p.m. | Hampden
Decorate your own wrapping paper and gift bags with paint and stamps.

Crafternoon: Northern Lights Art
Monday, December 7, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Learn about the Northern Lights then capture their beauty by creating your own version using pastels and chalk!

Paper Plate Baubles
Wednesday, December 9, 4:00 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Create a bright, shiny bauble to display.

Winter Ornaments
Monday, December 14, 2:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Ornaments aren't just for holiday trees. You can have ornaments for home, add them to your bookbag, put them in your car, and even on your clothes. Make winter-themed ornaments using materials supplied.

Sock Snowman
Tuesday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.
Patterson Park
Celebrate the start of winter by making a snowman that won't melt.

Polar Bear Cups
Wednesday, December 16, 3:00 p.m.
Roland Park
Warm up from the cold with an art project that'll make a cup look like a polar bear!

Crafternoon: Ugly Holiday Sweater
Monday, December 21, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Decorate a mini-ugly holiday sweater.

Crafternoon: Melting Snowman
Monday, December 28, 3:30 p.m. | Brooklyn
Get into the winter spirit by creating your own melting snowman!

Winter Beats for Little Feets
Wednesday, January 6, 11:00 a.m.
Hampden
Wednesday, January 13, 10:30 a.m.
Canton Church on the Square
(1025 S. Potomac St.)
DJ Chuck Jr. spins kid-friendly remixes of classic children's holiday songs for a dance party made just for ages 0 – 5. Move, jingle, and groove together.

Tissue Paper Snowmen
Wednesday, January 6, 3:15 p.m.
Roland Park
Make a melted snowman out of tissue paper.

Make a Paper Snowflake
Wednesday, January 13, 3:00 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Spend an afternoon folding, cutting, and designing unique paper snowflakes.

Sock Snowman
Thursday, January 14, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Northwood
Use everyday items to create your own little snowman!

Feed the Winter Birds
Tuesday, January 19, 4:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave.
Learn about the birds that DON'T fly south for the winter then create your own bird feeder.

Let's Make: Paper Snow Globe
Tuesday, January 19, 4:00 p.m.
Johnston Square
Draw a picture to go in your paper snow globe, then add glitter to make it snow!

Sequined Snowflake Slime
Thursday, February 18, 3:30 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
Learn how stretchy slime is formed through a chemical process called "crosslinking." Then create some slime of your very own by combining a few common household items.

Penguin Puppets
Wednesday, February 24, 3:15 p.m.
Roland Park
Create and decorate a penguin puppet.

☑ This event requires or recommends registration. Visit calendar.prattlibrary.org for registration info and complete details on each program.

CAN YOU FIND THE 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO PICTURES?





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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Author Events
- Lights, Cameras, Books!
- Black History Month and more!

BOOKLOVERS' BREAKFAST

featuring

Deesha Philyaw



Saturday, February 6, 2027
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tickets on sale:
Monday, November 30, 12:00 p.m.
at prattlibrary.org

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront
700 Aliceanna Street
Admission: $50 per person; Table of 10, $450

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