

ENOCH PRATT *free* LIBRARY | your journey starts here

Compass

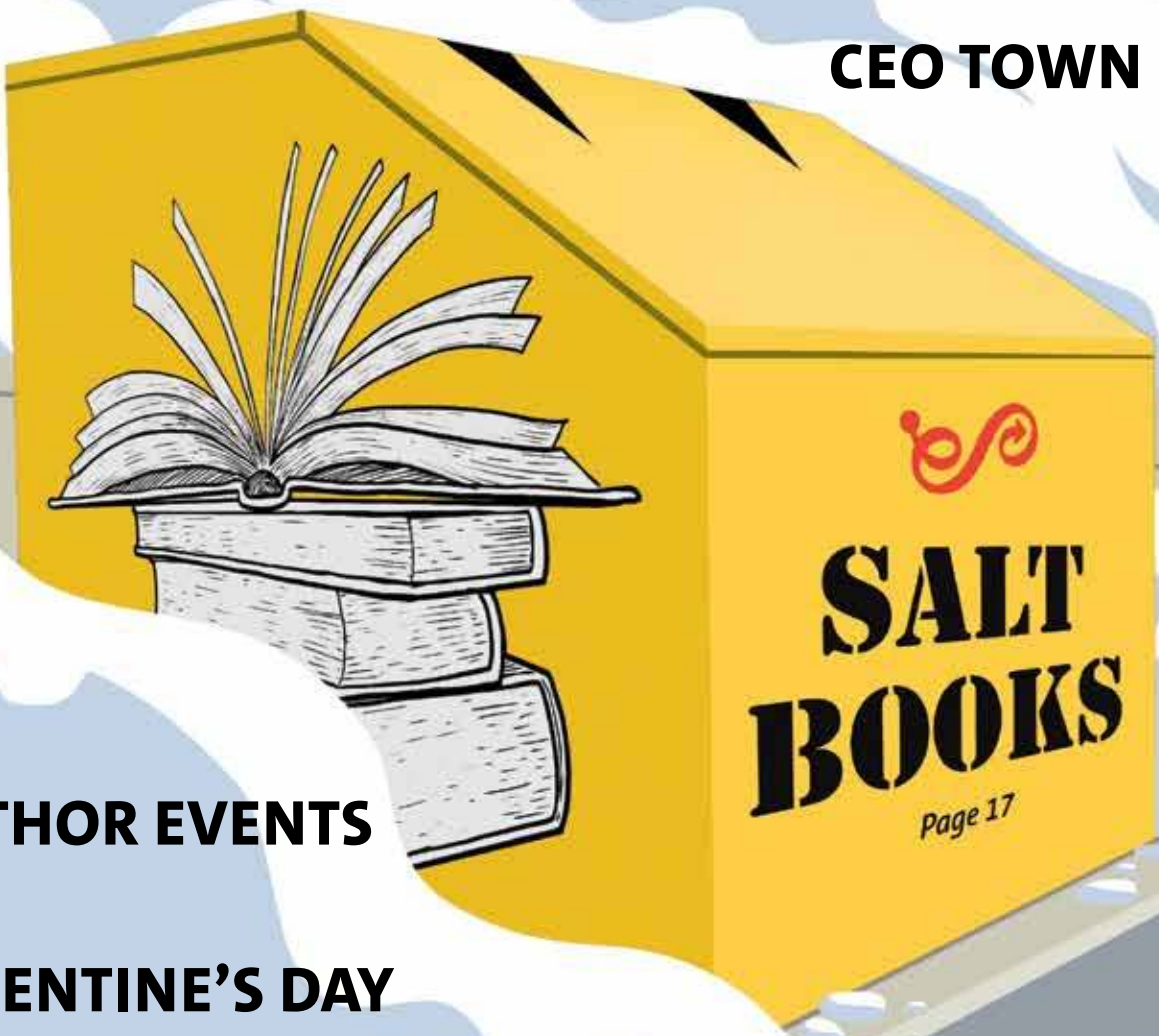
January & February 2025

CEO TOWN HALLS
Page 2

AUTHOR EVENTS
Page 6

VALENTINE'S DAY
Page 9

**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**
Page 14



**SALT
BOOKS**
Page 17

LOCATIONS

Free Wi-Fi is available at all branches.

Unless otherwise noted, branch hours are:

Monday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

CENTRAL LIBRARY & STATE LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER (CEN)

400 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

PHONE: 410-396-5430

EMAIL: info@prattlibrary.org

TELEPHONE REFERENCE:

Begins at 10:00 a.m., Mon. – Sat.

HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

BOOKMOBILE

PHONE: 410-396-0995

HOURS: Call for schedule

BROOKLYN BRANCH (BRK, CLOSED FOR RENOVATION)

300 E. Patapsco Ave., Baltimore, MD 21225

PHONE: 410-396-1120

EMAIL: brk@prattlibrary.org

CANTON BRANCH (CNT)

1030 S. Ellwood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

PHONE: 410-396-8548

EMAIL: cnt@prattlibrary.org

CHERRY HILL BRANCH (CHR)

606 Cherry Hill Rd., Baltimore, MD 21225

PHONE: 410-396-1168

EMAIL: chr@prattlibrary.org

HOURS:

Monday & Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

CLIFTON BRANCH (CLF, CURRENTLY CLOSED)

2001 N. Wolfe St., Baltimore, MD 21213

PHONE: 410-396-0984

EMAIL: clf@prattlibrary.org

EDMONDSON AVENUE BRANCH (EDM)

4330 Edmondson Ave., Baltimore, MD 21229

PHONE: 410-396-0946

EMAIL: edm@prattlibrary.org

FOREST PARK BRANCH (FRS, CLOSED FOR RENOVATION)

3023 Garrison Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21216

PHONE: 410-396-0942

EMAIL: frs@prattlibrary.org

GOVANS BRANCH (GVN)

5714 Bellona Ave., Baltimore, MD 21212

PHONE: 410-396-6098

EMAIL: gvn@prattlibrary.org

HAMILTON BRANCH (HML)

5910 Harford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21214

PHONE: 410-396-6088

EMAIL: hml@prattlibrary.org

HAMPDEN BRANCH (HMP)

3641 Falls Rd., Baltimore, MD 21211

PHONE: 410-396-6043

EMAIL: hmp@prattlibrary.org

HERRING RUN BRANCH (HRR)

3801 Erdman Ave., Baltimore, MD 21213

PHONE: 410-396-0996

EMAIL: hrr@prattlibrary.org

LIGHT STREET BRANCH (LGH)

1251 Light St., Baltimore, MD 21230

PHONE: 410-396-1096

EMAIL: lgh@prattlibrary.org

NORTHWOOD BRANCH (NRT)

4420 Loch Raven Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21218

PHONE: 410-396-6076

EMAIL: nrt@prattlibrary.org

ORLEANS STREET BRANCH (ORL)

1303 Orleans St., Baltimore, MD 21231

PHONE: 410-396-0970

EMAIL: orl@prattlibrary.org

PATTERSON PARK BRANCH (PTT)

158 N. Linwood Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

PHONE: 410-396-0983

EMAIL: ptt@prattlibrary.org

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE BRANCH (PNN)

1531 W. North Ave., Baltimore, MD 21217

PHONE: 410-396-0399

EMAIL: pnn@prattlibrary.org

HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

REISTERSTOWN ROAD BRANCH (RST)

6310 Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21215

PHONE: 410-396-0948

EMAIL: rst@prattlibrary.org

ROLAND PARK BRANCH (RLN)

5108 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21210

PHONE: 410-396-6099

EMAIL: rln@prattlibrary.org

SOUTHEAST ANCHOR LIBRARY (SEL)

3601 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224

PHONE: 410-396-1580

EMAIL: sel@prattlibrary.org

HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: CLOSED

WALBROOK BRANCH (WLB)

3203 W. North Ave., Baltimore, MD 21216

PHONE: 410-396-0935

EMAIL: wlb@prattlibrary.org

WASHINGTON VILLAGE BRANCH (WSH, CLOSED FOR REDEVELOPMENT)

856 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230

PHONE: 410-396-1099

EMAIL: wsh@prattlibrary.org

WAVERLY BRANCH (WVR)

400 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218

PHONE: 410-396-6053

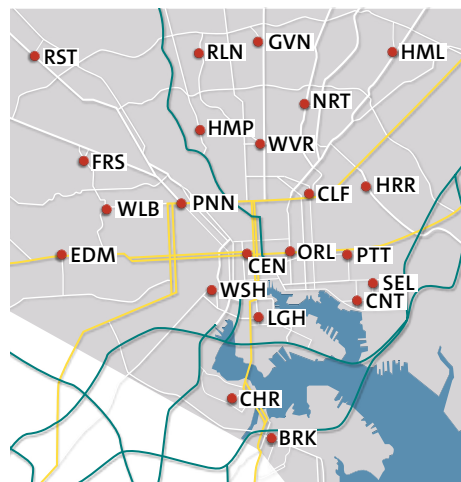
EMAIL: wvr@prattlibrary.org

ALL PRATT LOCATIONS WILL BE CLOSED:

New Year's Day: *Wednesday, January 1*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: *Monday, January 20*

Presidents' Day: *Monday, February 17*



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 six 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.



INTRODUCING COMICS PLUS

Enjoy unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels, and manga — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; on your computer, tablet, or phone. No holds. No wait lists. No limits.



Download the app and start reading with your library card today!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Q&A with Chad Helton	2
Building Updates	3
New Year, New You	4
Author Events	6
Library Valentines	9
Share the Love	13
Black History Month	14
Operation Warm Recap	17
Arts @ the Pratt	18
Spotlight on Pennsylvania Ave.	20



CHANGES TO HOOPLA ACCOUNTS

If you use **hoopla**® through the Enoch Pratt Free Library, you'll experience some service changes that began December 2024.

Starting December 1, we reduced the number of hoopla checkouts you can make each month from ten (10) to five (5).

In addition, streaming video and music is no longer available on the hoopla platform.

The library highly values providing access to a wide range of resources. This monthly cap is required due to budgetary constraints so we can continue offering this service to our community. This measure aims to ensure equitable access for all customers while managing our resources responsibly.



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
SATURDAY, MARCH 1**

More information
and submission guidelines at
prattlibrary.org/poetry-contest

Q&A WITH CHAD HELTON



What made you want to lead the Enoch Pratt Free Library?

It is the people of this city, and what the Library means to the community that made me want to be a part of this organization. The people of Baltimore are resilient, and care so much about the present and future of Baltimore, and this care and love extends to the Library, and all the employees that make this organization the valued and amazing institution that it is. I wanted to contribute to and help lead this organization to the future that we want to see for all Baltimoreans. I am truly grateful and excited to be here and build this future with you all.

What's your future vision for the Pratt?

My vision for the Pratt is to truly make the Library a place in which all are welcomed and all are supported. It is my goal to give all members of the Baltimore City community a voice in determining the direction that we will take as an organization. I plan on doing this by having community town halls in which members of the community can speak to me directly and provide us information about what it is they want to see from us as an organization.

How do you believe libraries can have an impact on communities?

Libraries are a place in which we provide unfettered access to information. This information can be educational and/or social resources, and we will continue to provide this access regardless of socioeconomic background.

You've been in Baltimore a few months. What are you enjoying most about Charm City?

So many things, but I am obsessed with The Peanut Shoppe off of Charles. I am a huge fan of Virginia Redskin Peanuts, and they fresh roast them there daily!

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH THE CEO

Saturday, January 11, 11:00 a.m. | Herring Run

Saturday, February 8, 11:00 a.m. | Edmondson Ave.

Saturday, March 15, 11:00 a.m. | Canton

Meet new Pratt Library CEO Chad Helton during a Town Hall Meeting with the CEO. 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.

LIBRARY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

Christine Espenshade (T/D)

Chair, Board of Trustees and Board of Directors

Mychelle Farmer (T)

Immediate Past Chair

Steven Boothe (T/D)

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Jamar R. Brown (T/D)

Vice Chair, Board of Directors

Beulah Perdue Sabundayo (D)

Vice Chair, Board of Directors

Robert Nye (D)

Treasurer

Mary Ann Scully (D)

Secretary

Virginia K. Adams (T/D)

OluwaTosin Adegbola (D)

Ajit Apte (D)

Barbara Bozzuto (D)

Sarah K. Brandt (D)

Mark Caplan (T/D)

Jeff Cherry (D)

Margaret De Cuevas (T/D)

Ned Courtemanche (D)

David Donato (D)

Ime Essien-Lewis (D)

Sandra P. Gohn (T/D)

Robert S. Hillman (T/D)

Allan D. Jensen (T)

Verna Jones-Rodwell (T)

Mark Kaufman (T/D)

Alexander W. Koff (T/D)

Patricia Lasher (T/D)

Matthew Lengel (Ex Officio)

Kristin Newhall MacMillan (D)

James Dabney Miller (T/D)

Elizabeth K. Moser (T/D)

Neal Naff (T/D)

Lynda Perry (D)

Vernon A. Reid (T)

Benjamin Rosenberg (T)

Jeffrey H. Scherr (T)

Kurt Schmoke (D)

David V. Valentine (D)

T = Trustee D = Director

TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS EMERITI

Mary H. DeKuyper

Cecil Flamer

Margot Milch Heller

Sayra Wells Meyerhoff

Robert S. Killebrew, Jr.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Sandra Berman

Lidia Paz-Baker

The next Meeting of the Boards of Trustees and Directors will be held Wednesday, March 12 at 5:15 p.m. Visit prattlibrary.org for details.

BUILDING UPDATES

We've experienced some construction delays with a few projects. We are working with our contractors and the City Department of General Services on the new schedule for HVAC replacement:

- Northwood: Winter – Spring 2025
- Govans & Reisterstown: Spring 2025
- Hamilton & Herring Run: Summer 2025.

In addition, the Patterson Park and Orleans St. Branches will undergo interior renovations in 2025. These renovations may result in the temporary closure of some branches.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

HERRING RUN

Phase I of the Herring Run renovation is complete. The Branch got an interior makeover with new paint, carpet, and technology furniture. The layout has been changed so that a new circulation desk welcomes visitors as they walk in. New ceiling tiles have added to the light and airy feel of the branch. Phase II of the Herring Run renovation will take place in 2025 and include a full HVAC replacement and exterior upgrades.

BROOKLYN

Construction crews are working to trench up the floors in our Brooklyn Branch to put more data and power lines in the floor. New technology furniture, including a privacy pod, have been purchased. The Branch will also have a full replacement of the HVAC unit this spring.

JOHNSTON SQUARE

Construction is well underway at the Pratt's newest location in Johnston Square. Expected completion time for the project is Winter of 2025.



DISABILITY AWARENESS

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD: A GUIDE TO EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & DISABILITY AWARENESS

Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library

Some say that you are your child's first teacher. You are also your child's first advocate. Join the Pratt Library in discussing disability awareness and advocacy in the educational setting. Facilitated by Winifred Winston from Dyslexia Advocation and the Black and Dyslexic podcast. Please request accommodations by January 8.

HIDDEN DISABILITIES: A CONVERSATION ABOUT RECOGNIZING LEARNING DISABILITY IN ADULTS

Thursday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library

Many adults face obstacles resulting from misunderstood or undiagnosed learning disabilities which impact their daily lives, potentially impacting their career, personal lives, and educational goals. The Pratt Library invites you to engage with us in this important informational discussion led by Winifred Winston from Dyslexia Advocation and the Black and Dyslexic podcast, along with Pratt's Accessibility Coordinator Erin Kelly. Please request accommodations by February 13.

**Register at prattlibrary.org.
To request accommodations, please contact Programs and Outreach at 410-396-5494 or events@prattlibrary.org.**

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

ADULTS

Chair Yoga

Tuesdays, 10:15 a.m. | Hampden
Chair yoga is a welcoming practice that is appropriate for EVERY body. This class is led by Margee Greenberg with Action in Maturity.

Jamercise with Ginger

Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill & Virtual
Jamercise is an exercise program that combines the benefits of a cardio-aerobic workout with elements of dance. Join us in person at the Cherry Hill Branch or virtually. For more information visit to prattlibrary.org.

Health Fair

Saturday, January 4, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Central Library
Start the new year by exploring ways to address your health and wellness. Join us for a series of presentations or just explore the fair. Learn about different health services from a variety of providers from medical healthcare to healthy lifestyle ambassadors.

Free Headshots

Thursday, January 9, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library
Does your LinkedIn need a refresh? Come get your headshot for FREE at the library! You will walk away with digital copies of your photos. Please note that this program is FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED. Photography services provided by Todd Dring. Registration for this program is recommended but not required. Register at prattlibrary.org.

New Year, New You Vision Board Party

Thursday, January 9, 5:30 p.m. | Waverly
Bring your dreams, goals, and vision for the year ahead. Registration is required. Call the Waverly Branch at 410-396-6089 or register at the Adult Information Desk.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 a.m.
Central Library
Donate blood at the Library with the American Red Cross! Potential donors will go through a screening process, donate a pint of blood, and receive a snack afterward. Register at prattlibrary.org; registration is highly recommended, although there may be room for walk-ins.

New Year Vision Journal

Saturday, January 11, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Decorate your own journal to start 2025 with mindful intentions. Call 410-396-6043 or email hmp@prattlibrary.org to register.

Stop Smoking with Tobacco Free Baltimore

Tuesdays, January 7 & February 11
2:30 p.m. | Central Library
Baltimore City citizens have access to tobacco cessation classes that will provide health information, coping skills, and any further guidance needed to complete the smoke-free journey.

Mocktail Mixer

Thursday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. | Light St.
An opportunity to meet and mix with others. Explore recipes for cozy, winter mocktails during this fun and interactive event. Taste and vote for your favorite recipe.

Shut Up & Read

Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.
Kitsch Cafe at R. House (301 W. 29th St.)
Thursday, February 6, 6:00 p.m.
Nepenthe Brewing Co. (3626 Falls Rd.)
Show up with a book to read on your own AND enjoy a free beverage on the Library! Library staff will be on-site to give book recommendations and sign people up for library cards. Registration for this program is required as space is limited. One drink per participant. Register at prattlibrary.org.

CAREER SUCCESS MONTH

WITH MARYLAND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

January 6 – February 6

A month of statewide programming to grow the workforce upward and outward.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m. | Virtual
Monday, February 3, 6:30 p.m. | Virtual

Two dynamic keynote speakers will share their insights and experiences. January: Walter Simmons, President & CEO of Employ Prince George's, a renowned figure in the local job market. February: Michael V. Morgan, an author, and speaker, known for his inspiring talks on career development.

Learn more at prattlibrary.org

New Year Sound Bath with Golden Road Healing

Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m.
Central Library
Colin and Madison of Golden Road Healing will be playing crystal singing bowls, gongs, melodic tongue drums, and other instruments; this music is great for those who are looking for relaxation and restoration. Register at prattlibrary.org

Basic Life Skills

Tuesdays, January 21 & February 18
11:00 a.m. | Pennsylvania Ave.
These lessons will teach adults life skills that help them better understand themselves, get along with others, and learn tools that can help with day to day activities.

OUR TIME KITCHEN: MEAL PREPPING WORKSHOP

Monday, January 13, 6:00 p.m. | Southeast Anchor Library
Monday, January 27, 6:00 p.m. | Our Time Kitchen (117 W. 24th St.)
Monday, February 10, 6:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Monday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. | Light St.

Join a featured chef from Our Time Kitchen for this dynamic meal-prep program designed to help you take control of your nutrition, save time in the kitchen, and enjoy flavorful meals every day. Whether you're looking to start the New Year by eating healthier, establishing goals to save money, or simplifying your cooking routine, this comprehensive program will help participants navigate the sometimes overwhelming world that is the kitchen. Walk away feeling more confident in meal preparation and ensure that you can enjoy delicious, healthy meals every day. Space for this program is limited; registration required. Register at prattlibrary.org.



New Year Vision Board

Thursday, February 13, 4:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Create a board that is filled with images, words, and phrases that represents your desires for the new year.



Penn North Dances

Tuesdays, February 18 & 25, 4:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Want to meet new friends, looking for a new hobby, or need to get your cardio going? Join us as we learn the latest dance moves taught by Bmore Bouncers!

Meditation & Movement

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 p.m. | Light St.
Join us for an evening of meditation and movement with Marcia McHugh.

Nature-Based Stress Reduction Series: Building Emotional Resilience

Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m.
Central Library

Join us as we explore nature as an antidote to stress. Dress warmly and be prepared for a short walk outside. Presented by Gina Strauss, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor at Chesapeake Mental Health Collaborative and the Program Coordinator and Senior faculty Member for the Center for Nature Informed Therapy.

TEENS

Mindful Mondays

Mondays, January 6 – 27, 4:00 p.m.
Central Library

Start your week with positive vibes by setting your goals and intentions. We will use journaling or affirmations to boost your confidence and focus, helping you handle whatever comes your way with a clear mind and a strong spirit.

Thrifty Threads: Custom Clothing & Quick Fixes for Teens

Wednesday, January 15, 3:30 p.m.
Orleans St.

Is there an item in your wardrobe that could use a quick fix or a custom accessory? Bring it to this event, and learn techniques to upcycle your threads! These additions can be functional or purely fashionable!

Winter Self-Care: Herbal Bath Satchels

Wednesday, January 22, 4:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Practice self-care and make your own herbal bath satchels. Select from a variety of floral herbs and scented salts. These satchels can elevate your self-care ritual.

Art Hive at the Library

Mondays, January 27 & February 24
4:00 p.m. | Waverly

A pop-up art space that invites you to make art and create community between the stacks. FREE and OPEN to ALL! A buffet of materials will be provided! Co-hosted by Make Studio Baltimore.

Teen Vision Board Workshop

Tuesday, January 28, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Join us for a creative and empowering workshop where teens will design their own 2025 vision boards! Through magazines, craft supplies, and guided reflection, teens will craft boards that reflect their dreams in areas like academics, hobbies, self-care, and more. This program has limited spaces. To register, please call at 410-396-1168.

Teen Summit

Wednesday, January 29, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
It's a new year and there are new things happening in our lives, so let's talk about it. Tell us your new plan for the new year.

Teen Yoga

Wednesday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Ana Rodney will lead teens in a series of stretches and positions, walking us through the healthy benefits of yoga.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Just Dance Party

Fridays, January 3, 17, 31 & February 14 & 28
3:30 p.m. | Walbrook

Let loose and come dance with us! All ages are welcomed to play Just Dance together.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

ALL AGES

NEW YEAR'S PAPER LANTERN WORKSHOP

Friday, January 10, 3:00 p.m. | Light St.
In this workshop, we celebrate the New Year by crafting beautiful paper lanterns. Join us to experience the peaceful art of lantern making, honoring this timeless tradition as we welcome the coming year together.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

PAPER LANTERN CRAFT

Wednesday, January 29, 3:30 p.m.
Cherry Hill

Celebrate the Lunar New Year by creating your own paper lantern! All supplies will be provided. Registration is encouraged. Please call 410-396-1168 to register

CRAFTERNOON: LUNAR NEW YEAR LANTERNS

Monday, February 3, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Celebrate Lunar New Year with us by making your own lantern.

“Nice facility.
Valuable services.
Knowledgeable staff.
Convenient locations.”

— Aaron W.



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 programs located at the Central Library.

WRITERS LIVE!



FREDERIC HILL

Mathias of Maryland

Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

Senator Charles "Mac" Mathias was a courageous risk-taker who

led efforts to advance civil rights, voting rights, environmental initiatives to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, and establish the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. His story is an inspiring example of what a courageous political leader can do when he follows his conscience and acts on principle. Frederic Hill will be joined in conversation by Tom Hall, host of WYPR's *Midday*.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



ALLEN R. WELLS & DEANDRA HODGE

Yvonne Clark and Her Engineering Spark

Friday, January 10, 4:00 p.m.
Waverly

Yvonne Clark had an engineering spark — an instinct for figuring out how things worked. Based on a true story, this inspiring picture book is about a curious, tinkering girl who grew up to become one of the first Black female engineers for NASA. All registered in-person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



ANGELA DOMINGUEZ

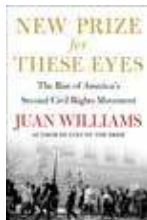
Gabby Torres Gets a Billion Followers

Wednesday, January 15, 4:00 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library

Join nine-year-old Gabby Torres as

she navigates the inevitable disasters of fourth grade and social media. All registered in-person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

WRITERS LIVE!



JUAN WILLIAMS

New Prize for These Eyes

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

Juan Williams chronicles the rise of a new 21st-century civil rights

movement. Who are its heroes? Where is it headed? What fires, furies, and frustrations distinguish it from its predecessor? *New Prize for These Eyes* is more than a recounting of history. It is a forward-looking call to action, urging Americans to get in touch with the progress made and hurdles yet to be overcome. Juan Williams will be joined in conversation by Pulitzer Prize-winning op-ed columnist E.R. Shipp.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



TUI T. SUTHERLAND

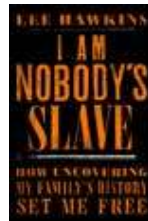
Wings of Fire

Saturday, January 18, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library

The bestselling *Wings of Fire* series soars to even greater heights with

a gorgeous collector's edition of book one. Tui T. Sutherland will be joined in conversation by librarian Kit Ballenger. All registered in-person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book.

WRITERS LIVE!



LEE HAWKINS

I Am Nobody's Slave

Wednesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

This book examines how trauma

from enslavement and Jim Crow shaped one Black family's outlook on thriving in America, influenced each generation, and how they succeeded despite these challenges.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



KAMI GARCIA

Mixed-Up

Thursday, January 23, 4:00 p.m.
Roland Park

A middle grade graphic novel about the struggles of a game-loving

girl who gets diagnosed with dyslexia and her loving support network that help her along in the journey. All registered in-person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

WRITERS LIVE!



SARAH PINSKER

Haunt Sweet Home

Saturday, January 25, 3:00 p.m.
Hamilton & Virtual

On the set of a kitschy reality TV show, staged scares transform into

unnerving reality in this spooky ghost story. Sarah Pinsker will be joined in conversation by novelist M.L. Rio.

WRITERS LIVE!



TAMARA LANIER

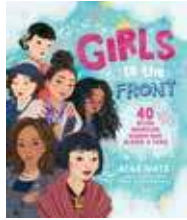
From These Roots

Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

One woman's unrelenting mission to reclaim her ancestors' history

and honor their lineage pits her against Harvard University. Tamara Lanier will be joined in conversation by *Baltimore Beat* editor-in-chief Lisa Snowden-McCray.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



NIÑA MATA

Girls to the Front

Wednesday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.
Light St.

Stand back, the girls are coming through: Learn about 40

amazing Asian American women who have changed the course of history! All registered in-person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

WRITERS LIVE!



JUDITH GIESBERG

Last Seen

Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

Drawing from an archive of nearly 5,000 letters and advertisements,

the riveting, dramatic story of formerly enslaved people who spent years searching for family members stolen away during slavery. Judith Giesberg will be joined in conversation by historian Anne Sarah Rubin.

WRITERS LIVE!



JONATHAN SCHROEDER

The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despots

Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

The United States Governed by Six

Hundred Thousand Despots written by an ex-slave and ex-American, untampered with and unedited by white abolitionists has never been seen before.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



RONALD L. SMITH

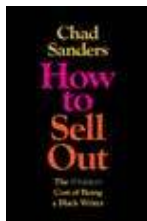
Project Mercury

Wednesday, February 12, 4:00 p.m.
Central Library

Ike and Eesha, two army brats — and former friends — have to get

over their differences and work together to unravel the secrets of Project Mercury, and save Ike's mom before it's too late. All registered in person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

WRITERS LIVE!



CHAD SANDERS

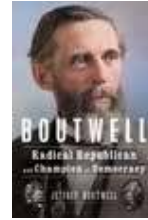
How to Sell Out

Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

A timely, vulnerable, and cutting-edge exploration of the pressures

and pitfalls of writing while Black in America in this urgently needed addition to the national conversation of race, money, and art.

WRITERS LIVE!



JEFFREY BOUTWELL

Boutwell

Tuesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

Boutwell is as much a history of 19th-century US politics as it is

a critique of the failures of governance during a turbulent and formative period in American history. Jeffrey Boutwell will be joined in conversation by Morgan State University history and geography professor Herbert Brewer.

YA WRITERS LIVE!



IBI ZOBOI

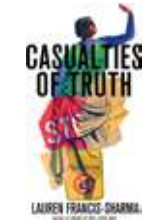
(S)kin

Wednesday, February 19, 4:00 p.m.
Walbrook

A novel in verse based on Caribbean folklore — about the power of

inherited magic and the price we must pay to live the life we yearn for. All registered in person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

WRITERS LIVE!



LAUREN FRANCIS-SHARMA

Casualties of Truth

Saturday, February 22, 3:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

A riveting literary novel with the sharp edges of a thriller about

the abuses of history and the costs of revenge, set between Washington, D.C., and Johannesburg, South Africa. Lauren Francis-Sharma will be joined in conversation by journalist Tiffany Cross.

WRITERS LIVE!



GREGG KIMBALL

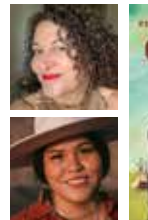
Searching for Jimmy Strother

Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.
Central Library & Virtual

The incredible true story of a blind musician, a brutal crime, and the

making of an American folk legend.

KIDS' WRITERS LIVE!



CAROLE LINDSTROM & ALY MCKNIGHT

The Gift of the Great Buffalo

Wednesday, February 26, 4:00 p.m.
Hamden

In this beautiful and dramatic

story, bestselling author Carole Lindstrom and illustrator Aly McKnight show readers how life was lived by Indigenous communities, offering the true history of life on the prairie. All registered in person attendees will receive a FREE copy of the book while supplies last.

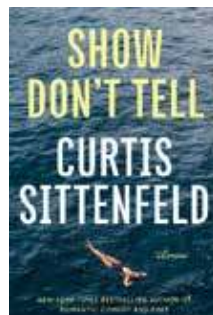
WHAT'S NEW

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



Black in Blues by Imani Perry

A surprising and beautiful meditation on the color blue — and its fascinating role in Black history and culture. Poignant, spellbinding, and utterly original, *Black in Blues* is brilliant. Attuned to the harrowing and the sublime aspects of the human experience, it is every bit as vivid, rich, and striking as blue itself.



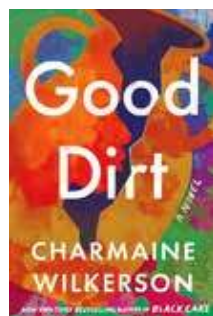
Show Don't Tell by Curtis Sittenfeld

A funny, fiercely intelligent, and moving collection exploring marriage, friendship, fame, and artistic ambition — including a story that revisits the main character from Curtis Sittenfeld's iconic novel *Prep*. Sittenfeld's stories peel back layer after layer of our inner lives, keeping us riveted to the page with her utterly distinctive voice.



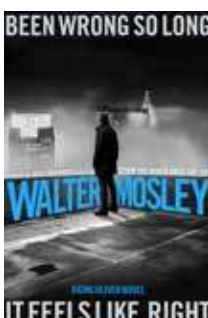
Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros

After 18 months at Basgiath War College, Violet Sorrengail knows there's no more time for lessons. The battle has truly begun, and Violet must seek allies from unfamiliar lands to stand with Navarre. She will do anything to save what she loves, even if it means keeping a secret so big, it could destroy everything.



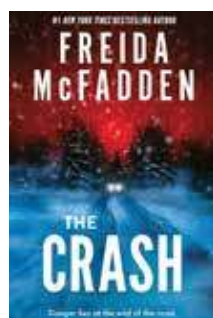
Good Dirt by Charmaine Wilkerson

The daughter of an affluent Black family pieces together the connection between a childhood tragedy and a beloved heirloom. In this sweeping, evocative novel, Charmaine Wilkerson brings to life a multi-generational epic that examines how the past informs our present.



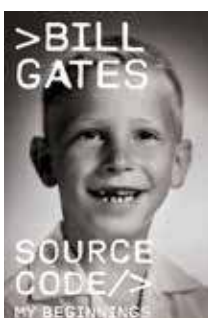
Been Wrong So Long It Feels Like Right by Walter Mosley

A family member's terminal illness leads P.I. Joe King Oliver to the investigation of his life: tracking down his long-lost father. Meanwhile, a new case pits King's professional responsibility against his own moral code. This latest installment is emotionally stirring, pulse-pounding, and undeniably sexy.



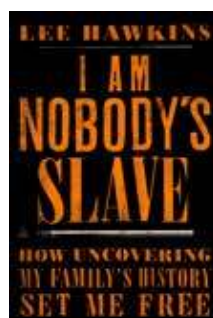
The Crash by Frieda McFadden

Tegan is eight months pregnant and stranded in the middle of a blizzard. Then a miracle occurs: she's rescued by a couple who offers her a room until the snow clears. But something isn't right. As time ticks by, Tegan comes to realize she is in grave danger. And now she must do whatever it takes to save herself — and her unborn child.



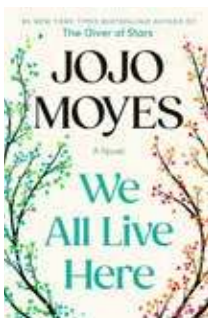
Source Code by Bill Gates

Source Code is the human, personal story of how Bill Gates became who he is today. It's the story of his family, friendships, and struggles; of embarking in his teens on a path that took him from midnight escapades at a nearby computer center to his college dorm room, where he sparked a revolution that would change the world.



I Am Nobody's Slave by Lee Hawkins

Lee Hawkins exhaustively examines his family's legacy of post-enslavement trauma and resilience in this riveting memoir. He explores the role of racism-triggered childhood trauma and chronic stress in shortening his ancestors' lives, using genetic testing, reporting, and historical data to craft a moving family portrait.



We All Live Here by Jojo Moyes

Lila Kennedy has a lot on her plate. A broken marriage, two wayward daughters, a house that is falling apart, and an elderly stepfather who has moved in. So when her real dad suddenly appears on her doorstep, it feels like the final straw. But even the family you thought you could never forgive might have something to teach you — about love, and what it means to be family.



The Power of Persuasion by Stacy Abrams

When an anti-terrorist agency decides to use her groundbreaking artificial intelligence system to stop a dangerous threat against Jafrir's monarchy, A.J. Grayson finds herself thrust in the middle of a political conspiracy that leads her into the arms of Damon Toca, the region's newly crowned king.

My heart is on hold
for you.



Dewey belong
together?



I'd like to read your
subtext.



You're my favorite
bedtime story.



Shelve it in Sci-Fi,
my love for you is
out of this world.



You make me lose
all shelf control.



Cut out these library-inspired cards to share with
your favorite reader!

To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:

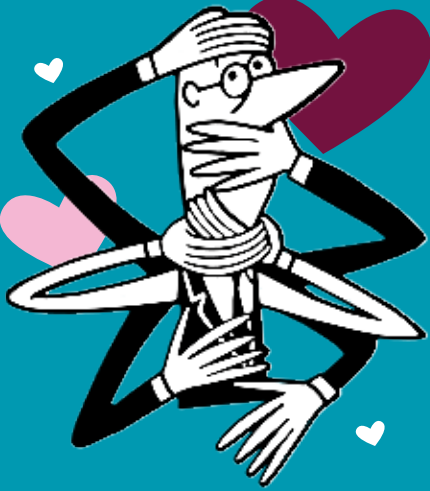


To:

From:



I'll never shush my love for you.



Wanna date-abase?



You're my primary source of happiness.



My love for you is no mystery.



You Enoch me off my feet.



I think you're PRATTastic!



Cut out these library-inspired cards to share with your favorite reader!

To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



To:

From:



SHARE THE LOVE

ALL AGES

Crafted Palentine's Day Cards: Celebrate Friendship, Laughter, and Love

Friday, February 14, 2:00 p.m. | Central Library
Create your own handmade cards. Learn to emboss your own card or try out other creative techniques! It's the perfect opportunity to honor your lifelong bestie, old pal, parent, or brand-new friend! All supplies included, good for all ages.

ADULTS

Coffee & Classics Book Club

Tuesdays, January 14 & February 11
11:00 a.m. | Light St.
Join our book club geared toward the classics. In January we'll discuss what books we'd like to read in the coming months. Inspired by the season of romance, we'll read *History of Love* by Nicole Krauss in February. Bring your travel mug filled with your favorite coffee.

Passion & Peril Book Club

Saturdays, January 25 & February 22
3:00 p.m. | Southeast Anchor Library & Virtual
Join us on Zoom or in person. You can find this month's book selection at libraries and on digital platforms like Hoopla, Libby, and KU.
January: *Not So Perfect Strangers* by L. S. Stratton.
February: *The Time I Got Drunk and Saved a Demon* by Kimberly Lemmings

Blind Date with a Book

February 1 – 28 | Pennsylvania Ave.
Blind date with a book is a fun way to be introduced to new authors or books that you may have judged by the cover. Once you've read your book, turn in your "Rate your Date" card to be entered into our drawing.

Valentine's Beaded Jewelry Workshop

Saturday, February 8, 1:00 p.m.
Edmondson Ave.
Create something special for yourself or a loved one. All materials are provided. Space is limited. Please call 410-396-0946 to register.

Pour Your Heart Out

Thursday, February 13, 6:00 p.m. | Light St.
Express and impress your love by creating a pour-paint masterpiece. Facilitated by local artist Esta Baker. All supplies are provided. Space is limited. Call 410-396-1096 to register or email lgh@prattlibrary.org.

Love to Paint

Saturday, February 22, 2:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Come create a beautiful picture based on the theme "Love Me or Hate Me." An artist teaches painting with step-by-step instructions. All supplies provided. Sign up by calling 410-396-6088.

TEENS

Paint & Snack: Love All Around

Wednesday, February 5, 4:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.
An event that blends love-themed art, chocolate snacks, and a memorable social interaction, for teens! Paintings can be shared as a gift for a loved one or created as a display of self-love.

World's Worst Valentine's Card Contest

Tuesday, February 11, 3:30 p.m. | Hampden
Do you NOT have what it takes to make a good Valentine's Day card? Then come compete against your fellow teens to see who can make the world's WORST Valentine's Day card! There will be snacks and fun giveaways for all participants, as well as trophies and prizes for the top three entries!

What Does Kindness Mean to You?

Thursday, February 13, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Join your librarian to discuss random acts of kindness and the importance of being kind. Then, create small cards with words that represent what kindness means to you.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Playdate at the Library: Heart Hunt

Friday, February 7, 11:00 a.m. | Hampden
Join us for a fun and interactive playdate, perfect for little ones learning their colors and letters! Children and their caregivers will enjoy a heart-themed scavenger hunt that encourages sorting by color and recognizing letters along the way.

Crafternoon: Heart Painting

Monday, February 10, 4:00 p.m. | Waverly
Spread the love with a heart painting craft.

Buttons of Love

Tuesday, February 11, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Design your own Valentine's Day buttons to give to friends and loved ones.

Beary Fun Cards

Thursday, February 13, 11:00 a.m.
Roland Park
Create a card and share the love for someone "beary" special in a post-storytime activity. All materials provided.

WRITERS LIVE!



NIKKI PAYNE
Sex, Lies and Sensibility

Thursday, February 6
6:30 p.m. | Light St.

Two sisters roll up their sleeves to run a dilapidated inn but must learn to work with the locals in this deliciously spicy novel inspired by *Sense and Sensibility*.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

ADULTS

Af-Am Department Book Club

Saturdays, January 11 & February 8

12:00 p.m. | Central Library

Join a book club hosted by librarians of the African American Department.

January: *Sky Full of Elephants* by Cebo Campbell

February: *Black AF History: the Un-Whitewashed Story of America* by Michael Harriot.

A History of Civil Rights in Baltimore

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.

Central Library

Baltimore has a strong heritage of Civil Rights activism. Baltimore historian Bradley Alston will provide a comprehensive overview of the exciting story of Baltimore's Civil Rights history of combating discrimination in residential housing, employment, voting, and education.

Adult Black History Month Bingo

Tuesday, February 4, 2:00 p.m. | Cherry Hill

Expand your knowledge and win prizes with Bingo. This program has limited spaces. To register, please call 410-396-1168.

Beats N Bingo: Black History Month Edition – Celebrating the Legacy of Activism

Thursday, February 6, 6:00 p.m.

Central Library

Join us for a night of celebration with DJ B-Eazy, bingo, and complimentary food and drinks. This event is 21+. ID REQUIRED for alcohol consumption. Registration required. Register at prattlibrary.org.

Poetry Online Discussion of Rita Dove

Saturday, February 8, 11:00 a.m. | Virtual

Join us online for a discussion of the poetry of Rita Dove. For more information email list, email poetry@prattlibrary.org.

A Case for the Graphic Black Life: How the Black Comics Tradition Speaks to American Life

Saturday, February 8, 2:00 p.m.

Central Library

Jordan Clark and Brandon Rashad Butts will discuss how the graphic novel format validates the Black Experience, challenges oppression, and honors the dynamic history of the Graphic Black Life — in art and humanity. Register at prattlibrary.org.

Book Discussion: Medgar and Myrlie

Monday, February 10, 6:00 p.m. | Hampden

Read *Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story That Awakened America* by Joy-Ann Reid then join a discussion with fellow readers.

Excellence & Innovation in Baltimore Hospitality with No Pix After Dark

Wednesday, February 12

6:30 p.m. | Central Library

Join Aaron Dante of the No Pix After Dark podcast for a lively conversation with four hospitality professionals shaping the future of Baltimore and beyond. This distinguished panel features Travis Bell, Founder of Black Acres Roastery; Al Hutchinson, President & CEO of Visit Baltimore; Damian Mosley, Founder of Blacksauce Kitchen; and Juan Webster, Senior Corporate Director of Social Impact at Montage International. ID REQUIRED for alcohol consumption. IDs will be checked. Registration required. Register at prattlibrary.org.



Pratt Page-Turners Book Club

Saturday, February 15, 11:00 a.m.

Central Library & Virtual

Join us for a discussion of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. This program has a hybrid format. Participate either in person or on Zoom. For help obtaining a copy of the book or for more information about the book club, please email ffc@prattlibrary.org.

Black Lives & Abraham Lincoln

Saturday, February 15, 1:30 p.m.

Central Library

This discussion will unlock some old and new historical discoveries about the life of Abraham Lincoln. We will discuss whether or not Lincoln was truly a champion for Black lives and how the life of Abraham Lincoln fits into the larger story of African American History and the African American experience.

Movie: *The Color Purple* (2023)

Saturday, February 15, 2:00 p.m. | Waverly

2023 | Rated PG-13 | 2 hr. 20 min.

Amplified Voices Series: Voices from the Community

Thursday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.

Central Library

A panel discussion featuring legal experts and community advocates addressing the complexities of navigating the justice system. Participants will share insights from their experiences and discuss the challenges faced by under-served communities while emphasizing the importance of equity and justice.



Read With Pride Book Club:

Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m. | Light St.
In celebration of Black History Month, we'll read *Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. Registration is recommended. To register, call 410-396-1096 or email lgh@prattlibrary.org.

Adult Game Night: Black History Bingo

Thursday, February 27, 5:30 p.m. | Waverly
Join us for a lively evening of Bingo with a special spotlight on Black authors. Registration is required. Call the Waverly Branch at 410-396-6089 or stop by the Adult Information Desk to register.

Voices of Change: A Celebration of Community Excellence

Thursday, February 27, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library
This social event will celebrate community champions. The evening will feature delicious food, refreshments, music, engaging games, and a facilitated conversation. (Note: Must be 21+ to attend.)

TEENS

I Have a Dream

Friday, January 10, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Come in and watch Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, then create a speech displaying your dream.

Afternoon Matinee: Selma

Saturday, January 18, 2:00 p.m. | Waverly
2014 | Rated PG-13 | 2 hr. 8 min.

Teen Black History Trivia Challenge

Monday, February 3, 3:00 p.m. | Waverly
Test your knowledge of Black history, culture, and achievements in a fun, competitive environment.

Djembe Orchestra with Moving History

Monday, February 3, 4:00 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Monday, February 10, 6:00 p.m. | Light St.
Experience a performance of *The Great Mali Empire*, which exposes participants to the culture and history of the Mali Empire, particularly relating to Mansa Musa and Sundiata, through the study and technical training on West African Drums.

March with Me

Tuesday, February 4, 3:00 p.m. | Hamilton
Join us in making posters for a present-day march to address issues important to you.

Guess Who? Black History Edition

Tuesday, February 4, 4:00 p.m.
Central Library
Test your knowledge of influential Black figures through trivia with clues about pioneers in history, arts, science, and more.

Black History Jeopardy

Wednesdays, February 5 – 19, 3:00 p.m.
Hamilton
Do you know your Black History facts? Come join us for some Black History trivia. The winner of jeopardy will walk away with a one-of-a-kind trophy.

West African Dance with Moving History

Friday, February 7, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
West African Dance introduces participants to the history and culture of the great Mali Empire through movement. This presentation will teach participants about world cultures and history through an engaging performance.

iWitness Media & the Movement: Part One

Saturday, February 8, 1:00 p.m.
Southeast Anchor Library
Join Wordsmith for the production of two short plays! First, "My Brilliance Shines" Theater Troupe will tell the story of John and Martha Murphy's purchase of the *AFRO* American Newspaper in 1897 and the impact of Black journalists like Moses Newsome. The second play will take the audience on a journey through Gloria Richardson's famous stand against the police in Cambridge, while exploring how her appearance on the cover of *Jet* elevated her to a national figure; solidifying her position as a leader of the civil rights movement.

Afro Blue: A Musical Journey from Africa through America

Wednesday, February 12, 11:30 a.m.
Roland Park
Thursday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library
Join us for an engaging show that traces the rich history and transformative journey of Jazz music. The show highlights the contributions of legendary artists such as Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Ella Fitzgerald, illustrating how these genres and musicians collectively shaped the sound and essence of traditional jazz. Register at prattlibrary.org

Celebrate Black History Month

Tuesday, February 18, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Celebrate Black History Month by talking about what it means to you.

Who Am I? Black History Bingo

Tuesday, February 18, 3:30 p.m. | Cherry Hill
Join us for a fun, interactive way to celebrate and discuss Black History Month. Prizes will be provided. This program has limited spaces. To register, please call 410-396-1168.



BOOKLOVERS' BREAKFAST FEATURING IMANI PERRY

Saturday, February 1
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Baltimore Marriott Waterfront
700 Aliceanna Street

We're honored to welcome National Book Award-winning author Imani Perry as the speaker for this year's Booklovers' Breakfast.

Imani Perry is the author of *South to America*, winner of the 2022 National Book Award for Nonfiction. She is the Henry A. Morss, Jr. and Elisabeth W. Morss Professor of Studies of Women, Gender and Sexuality and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Perry's other books include *Looking for Lorraine: The Radiant and Radical Life of Lorraine Hansberry*, winner of the 2019 Bograd-Weld Biography Prize from the Pen America Foundation; *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*; *Vexy Thing: On Gender and Liberation*; and *May We Forever Stand: A History of the Black National Anthem*. Her forthcoming book, *Black and Blues: How a Color Tells the Story of My People*, will be published on January 28, 2025.

Advanced registration required. Register at prattlibrary.org

Admission: \$50 per person
\$450 for a Table of 10

Deadline for registration: Monday, January 27, 12:00 p.m.

For more information, call 443-768-0762
Books provided by MahoganyBooks



African Culinary Arts with Moving History

Thursday, February 20, 3:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Moving History leads this workshop offering a look at Black heritage through the lens of the kitchen. Participants will learn traditional recipes, new takes on old favorites, and how we are connected across the Atlantic and the Diaspora through food.

Afternoon Matinee: *Malcolm X*

Friday, February 21, 2:00 p.m. | Waverly
1992 | Rated PG-13 | 3 hr. 22 min.

iWitness Media & the Movement: Part Two

Saturday, February 22, 3:30 p.m.

Southeast Anchor Library

Join Wordsmith for the production of two short plays! "My Brilliance Shines" Theater Troupe will bring Thurgood Marshall's interview on Brown v. Board of Education to life as we explore this landmark case in detail. The theater troupe will also cover Lillie Carroll Jackson's role in the Civil Rights Movement as she organized protests, boycotts, and voter registration drives to challenge segregation and discrimination.

— CHILDREN & FAMILIES —

Peace Doves

Monday, January 13, 3:00 p.m. | Govans
In honor and anticipation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, join us in creating a garland of peace doves to decorate the library!

Dr. King Sign Making Workshop

Wednesday, January 15, 3:30 p.m.

Cherry Hill

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. effectively used protest signs to communicate the message of his marches. Join us as we review the storied history of protest signs and make signs of our own. Call 410-396-1168 to register.

MLK Jr. Trivia

Thursday, January 16, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with an exciting game of trivia!

Guess Who: Heroes of the Past & Present

Tuesday, February 4, 3:00 p.m. | Walbrook
Join us for an exciting game of "Guess Who" in celebration of Black History Month.

Black History Month Who's Who

Tuesdays, February 4 – 25, 4:00 p.m.

Southeast Anchor Library

Test your knowledge of Black history and sleuthing skills.

Virtual Tour of B&O Railroad Exhibit:

"From Slavery to Civil Rights: The African American Railroad Legacy"

Wednesday, February 5, 3:30 p.m.

Cherry Hill

Join us for a virtual tour of the B&O Railroad museums exhibit: "From Slavery to Civil Rights: The African American Railroad Legacy." On this tour, we will delve into the storied history of African Americans on the railroad. Call 410-396-1168 to register.

Black History Bingo

Tuesday, February 18, 3:30 p.m. | Light St.

Learn some interesting facts about Black history while playing a fun game of bingo.

Pages of Wonder: Celebrating Jerry Pinkney

Saturday, February 22, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden

Celebrate Black History Month with a special storytime honoring award-winning illustrator Jerry Pinkney. We'll explore his famous picture book illustrations, including his retellings of Aesop's Fables, and then create our very own picture book to take home. Recommended for children ages 3 and up.

Storytelling with Bunjo Butler

Wednesday, February 26, 11:30 a.m.

Roland Park

Telling in the African oral tradition, Bunjo Butler's repertoire includes variations and improvisations on the universal truths found in the myths, stories, games, proverbs, riddles, and songs of the African diaspora as well as those of his own creation.



WRITERS LIVE!

KARSONYA WISE WHITEHEAD

my mother's tomorrow

Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.

Central Library & Virtual

Baltimore City, like most urban spaces, has a particular type of rhythm. It has a pulse, and it moves and breathes. It is an Upper South city that has survived despite the challenges that it faces. It is a city full of stories and storytellers.

Dr. Kaye Wise Whitehead is a collector of Baltimore's stories and has shared them on her award-winning radio show, *Today With Dr. Kaye*, and in her former *Afro* column, *Conversations With Dr. Kaye*.

In 2017, during the Black Lives Movement, Dr. Kaye began a three-year in-depth ethnographic study within Baltimore's Black Butterfly neighborhoods, documenting and recording the stories and experiences of the community in a bi-weekly Opinion Editorial column in the *Afro*. Those stories were then shared in schools and communities across the city, sparking conversation and debate about who runs this city, who owns it, and who is going to inherit it.

Her book *my mother's tomorrow* is a love letter to Baltimore — documenting everything from school shootings to Black Lives Matter, Trump's first presidency to Black Covid Stories — it is their words, their lives, and their experiences written and shared so that they won't be forgotten.

Karsonya Wise Whitehead will be joined in conversation by social entrepreneur and educator Dr. LaMarr Darnell Shields.

EXHIBIT: FROM SLAVE SHIP TO THE WHITE HOUSE AFRICAN AMERICANS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Starting Mid-February | Central Library, Annex

This exhibit explores the history and contemporary issues of work, workers, and the labor movement, with special attention to the ethnicity and immigrant experience of African American workers. This exhibit focuses on the history of Black labor and labor unions in the United States — where we've been and where we are now.

OPERATION WARM

This winter, the Pratt has once again partnered with Operation Warm to give out hundreds of new warm winter coats to children across Baltimore City for free. Giveaways were held at Orleans St., Cherry Hill, Walbrook, Southeast Anchor Library, Hamilton, and Waverly. The Library is collaborating with 20 community partners to provide additional information and resources to families at the events



WE'RE DISTRIBUTING

1,800
WINTER COATS



1,300
BOOKS



1,500
PAIRS OF SOCKS



EXHIBIT: THE CIVIC PRIDE OF THE BALTIMORE SALT BOX

Starting Mid-January | Central Library, 2nd Floor

Each year, bright yellow salt boxes are strategically placed to help Baltimoreans treat streets and sidewalks in the snow and ice. In December 2020, some salt boxes started to get makeovers after local artist Juliet Ames noticed a box with no letters on it. Dozens of other artists have now added their creativity to salt boxes around the city.

This exhibit showcases a photo collection of salt boxes across the city that is now available on Digital Maryland.



ARTS @ THE PRATT

ADULTS

Create at Canton

Thursdays, January 9 & 23, February 13 & 27
6:00 p.m. | Canton

Join us for a cozy, casual crafting night — and a chance to indulge in a delightful evening of creativity and community. Bring a friend!

Dying with Natural Dyes

Thursday, January 23, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library

The Forestry Department of Baltimore city will be teaming up with local dye enthusiasts to create unique fabric dyes from different parts of trees native to the region. The class will emphasize how to extract natural dye from botanicals, set it into fabric, and how to care for it so the colors will remain. Registration for this program is required. Register at prattlibrary.org.

E. Brady Robinson: Her Work with Baltimore's Creative Communities

Monday, January 27, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library

The Pratt Library is proud to announce a special lecture by E. Brady Robinson, a Baltimore-based photographer and creative director known for her vibrant and eclectic mix of fine art photography, cultural documentation, and portraits of creatives. The lecture will provide attendees with insights into Robinson's experiences documenting Baltimore's vibrant creative community. Register at prattlibrary.org.

Painted Disco Ball

Saturday, February 8, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Brighten up dreary winter days with a colorful hand-painted disco ball. Email hmp@prattlibrary.org or call 410-396-6043 to register.

Draw Each Other: Paint Night Challenge

Saturday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.
Pennsylvania Ave.

Join us for a fun and creative evening at our "Draw Each Other" paint night! This event invites participants to unleash their artistic talents in a relaxed, supportive environment. Bring a friend and meet new people as you take turns drawing each other's portraits — no artistic experience necessary! Registration for this program is required as materials are limited. Please call 410-396-0399 to register.

TEENS

Teen Crafts

January 6 & 7, February 10 & 11, 3:00 p.m.
Govans

Create different arts and crafts with a variety of supplies! While supplies last. January: Cross Stitch Kits February: Anime Coloring

Press-On Nails

Monday, January 6, 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 8, 3:30 p.m.
Reisterstown Rd.

Decorate and bedazzle your own set of press-on nails. If you don't finish on the first day, you can come back the next. Using polish, stickers, jewels, and top coat, create a unique work of art. Space is limited. Call the branch to register.

Teen Photography Club

Mondays & Thursdays,
January 23 – February 8, 4:30 p.m.
Central Library

This club will introduce participants to the fundamentals of photography, including camera basics, composition, lighting techniques, and photo editing. Each session will feature hands-on activities and opportunities to practice skills, culminating in a mini-exhibition where participants can showcase their work. Registration is required. Register at prattlibrary.org

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

International Creativity Month

Wednesdays, January 8 – 29, 3:00 p.m.
Hamilton

Enjoy making a different craft every Wednesday for the month of January. All supplies will be provided.

Wonderland Storytime & Craft

Saturday, January 25, 3:00 p.m. | Hampden
Bring your little ones to this special family storytime as we read from Alice in Wonderland and dive into the enchanting world of Wonderland. Children will enjoy creating a pocket watch craft together and practicing how to tell time on an analog clock. This program is perfect for children ages 3 and up and their caregivers.

Puppet Theater

Tuesday, January 28, 3:30 p.m.
Patterson Park

Make a puppet theater and puppets so you can perform your own show.

HACKERMAN WRITER-IN- RESIDENCE



OFFICE HOURS WITH D. WATKINS

Wednesdays, January 15 & February 19
3:00 p.m. | Central Library

An opportunity to sit down with Watkins, share your story, and gain insights from his creative approach to storytelling.

PERSONAL ESSAY:

YOUR FAMILY STORY WITH D. WATKINS

Thursday, January 23, 5:00 p.m.
Walbrook

D. Watkins leads this workshop on the fundamentals of writing personal essays.

BUILDING INTERESTING CHARACTERS FOR NONFICTION AND FICTION WITH D. WATKINS

Wednesday, February 19, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library

A comprehensive workshop on creating engaging, memorable characters.

ARCHITECTURAL MINIATURES WITH JILL ORLOV



A former architect turned sculptor, Jill Orlov creates captivating miniature scenes and vignettes.

JILL ORLOV REIMAGINES AND RESCALES ARCHITECTURAL SPACES IN METAL & VINTAGE CURIOSITIES

Tuesday, January 28, 6:00 p.m.
Central Library

Jill will share her inspirations, process, and offer participants an up-close look at her intimate worlds in miniature.

REIMAGINING IN MINIATURES: A WORKSHOP WITH JILL ORLOV

Tuesday, February 25, 5:00 p.m.
Central Library

Participants will reimagine found objects with Jill's assistance to create their own bespoke miniature bookshelf.

Registration is required for these programs. Register at prattlibrary.org.

CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION

THE LIBRARY HAS DISTRIBUTED 50,000 CHROMEBOOKS

Early in the new year, the Pratt Library will have distributed 50,000 HP Chromebooks to eligible Baltimore City households in partnership with Baltimore City Information & Technology and the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband.



"I am a 75-year-old man with epilepsy and other disabilities that limit my mobility and access to public events. With this Chromebook, I can access the resources of my public library system, interact on social media, and indulge my passion for creative writing. It has opened worlds to me that were otherwise denied."



"I have been able to take care of personal things and my son is able to do his homework at home and turn it in on time!"



"Just what I really needed, but couldn't afford. So this program has been truly a Blessing. Thanks."



CASH
CAMPAIGN
OF MARYLAND
Creating Assets, Savings and Hope

FREE TAX PREPARATION

CASH Campaign of Maryland tax assistance is available at Central Library **by appointment only**. Individuals or families who made less than \$67,000 may qualify for free tax preparation.

To make an appointment, visit bmorefreetaxes.org or call 410-234-8008 Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Call 410-732-7777 for assistance in Spanish.

Appointments must be made in advance.

SPOTLIGHT ON PENNSYLVANIA AVE.



ADULTS

Cupcake Masterpieces:

Cupcake Decorating Class for Adults

Thursday, January 16, 4:00 p.m.

Unleash your creativity and satisfy your sweet tooth in this exciting, hands-on cupcake decorating class, led by the talented team from Charm City Cakes, the famous bakery founded by Chef Duff Goldman! Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this class will teach you everything you need to know about decorating cupcakes. Spaces are limited, call 410-396-0399 to reserve your spot.

TEENS

Teen Book Discussion: *Lore Olympus Vol. 1*

Saturday, January 18, 2:30 p.m.

Experience the propulsive love story of two Greek gods — Hades and Persephone — brought to life with lavish artwork and an irresistible contemporary voice. This volume collects episodes 1 – 25 of the #1 WEBTOON comic, *Lore Olympus*.

Vintage Movie Monday: *Spider-Man (2002)*

Monday, January 27, 4:00 p.m.

After being bitten by a genetically-modified spider, a shy teenager gains spider-like abilities that he uses to fight injustice as a masked superhero and face a vengeful enemy. 2002 | Rated PG-13 | 2 hr. 1 min.

Movie Monday: *The Color Purple*

Monday, February 10, 4:00 p.m.

A woman faces many hardships in her life, but ultimately finds extraordinary strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood. 2023 | Rated PG-13 | 2 hr. 21 mins.

Teen Competition: Uno Tournament

Wednesday, February 19, 4:00 p.m.

Join us for an Uno competition! Get ready for plenty of laughs and friendly rivalry that will make for an unforgettable experience! 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes are awarded.

Movie Monday: *The Little Mermaid*

Monday, February 24, 4:00 p.m.

A young mermaid makes a deal with a sea witch to trade her beautiful voice for human legs so she can discover the world above water and impress a prince.

2023 | Rated PG | 2 hr. 15 min.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Baby & Toddler Storytime

Mondays, 11:00 a.m.

Stories, movement, play, and songs for babies in arms and toddlers together. Playtime follows. For little ones under two with a favorite adult. All abilities welcome.

Family Storytime

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.

Stories, movement, songs, and our most fun activities. Come ready to move, laugh, and learn together. For families with children ages 2 – 5. All abilities welcome.

Crafternoon

Wednesdays, January 8 & 29, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, February 4 & 18, 3:00 p.m.

Come enjoy a fun craft led by a librarian! All materials are provided.

Family Games!

Mondays, January 20 & February 17

3:00 p.m.

Join us on select Mondays, for family friendly board and card games led by your local librarian.

Rock & Rhyme with Mr. Jon

Saturday, February 15, 1:00 p.m.

Using songs, rhymes, books, and puppets, Mr. Jon and his silly friend George the Monkey will entertain you with a show for the young and young at heart.



SNEAK PEEK AT MARCH & APRIL

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE INFORMATION SESSION

Monday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.

Central Library

Are you considering applying to the 2026 Artist-in-Residence Program but still have questions? Join us in March to learn more about the program, view the studio space and meet our Artist-in-Residence Program Coordinator. There will be a short presentation followed by a Q&A session.

WOMEN IN WORKFORCE FORUM & LUNCHEON

Wednesday, March 19

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Central Library

Join us for a day of encouraging topics related to women's empowerment in the workplace. Register at prattlibrary.org

WRITERS LIVE!

REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS

Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.

Central Library

Reginald Dwayne Betts will discuss his new book of poetry *Doggerel*. *Doggerel* is a revelatory meditation on Blackness, masculinity, and vulnerability from one of poetry's boldest voices.



IMAGINATION CELEBRATION FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 29

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Central Library

Join us for a day of fun to kick off Imagination Celebration! Celebrate children's creativity and imagination with exciting programs throughout the month of April.

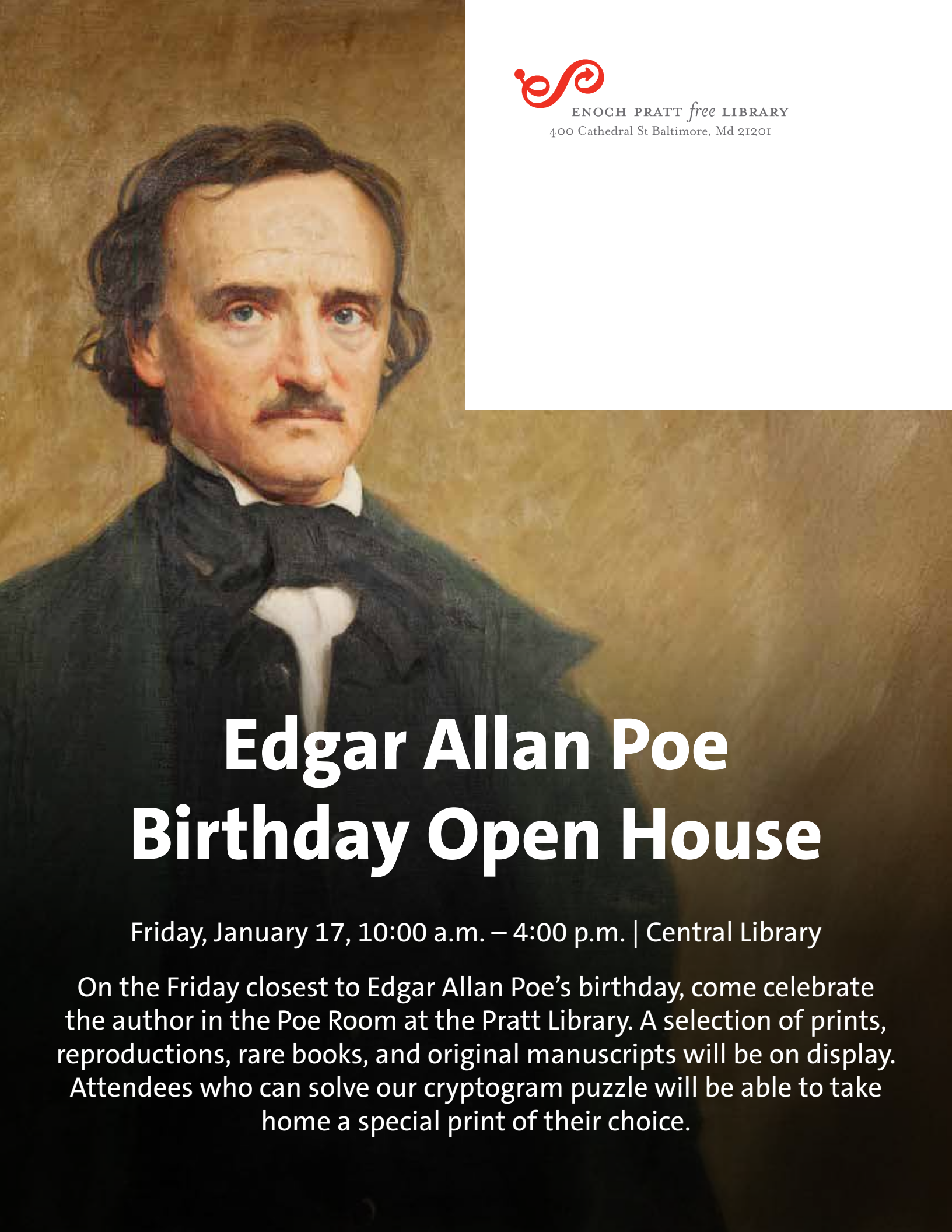
FALL EVENTS

This fall, the Pratt welcomed chef Bobby Flay and authors John Grisham and Jim McCloskey as part of Writers LIVE! The Library also hosted several panels with local Baltimore restaurant industry professionals in partnership with the *No Pix After Dark* podcast. Check out the photos from these exciting events.





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

A portrait of Edgar Allan Poe, showing him from the chest up. He has dark, wavy hair, a mustache, and is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark cravat. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Edgar Allan Poe Birthday Open House

Friday, January 17, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Central Library

On the Friday closest to Edgar Allan Poe's birthday, come celebrate the author in the Poe Room at the Pratt Library. A selection of prints, reproductions, rare books, and original manuscripts will be on display. Attendees who can solve our cryptogram puzzle will be able to take home a special print of their choice.