

Howard County Library System

# source

MAY/JUN 2026

**Summer Reading  
Adventures**  
p 3

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:  
AAPI Heritage Month  
Teen Live  
Mental Health Awareness  
America's 250th  
Juneteenth





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**source**  
 hclibrary.org

**HOURS**

MON - THU 9 am - 8 pm  
 FRI & SAT 9 am - 5 pm  
 SUN\* 1 - 5 pm

\*Summer Sundays begin June 15, when only Central and Miller branches remain open.

**HOLIDAYS + CLOSINGS**

Memorial Day May 24 & 25  
 Juneteenth Jun 19

**LOCATIONS + NUMBERS**

HOURSplus ONLINE 410.313.7890  
 PHONE RENEWALS 410.313.7810  
 CENTRAL BRANCH 410.313.7800  
 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway  
 Columbia, MD 21044  
 EAST COLUMBIA BRANCH 410.313.7700  
 6600 Cradlerock Way  
 Columbia, MD 21045  
 ELKRIDGE BRANCH 410.313.5077  
 6540 Washington Boulevard  
 Elkridge, MD 21075  
 GLENWOOD BRANCH 410.313.5577  
 2350 State Route 97  
 Cooksville, MD 21723  
 MILLER BRANCH 410.313.1950  
 9421 Frederick Road  
 Ellicott City, MD 21042  
 SAVAGE BRANCH 410.313.0760  
 9525 Durness Lane  
 Laurel, MD 20723  
 ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH 410.313.7750  
 9411 Frederick Road  
 Ellicott City, MD 21042

**TTY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED**

Central 410.313.7883  
 East Columbia 410.313.7770  
 Elkridge 410.313.5090  
 Glenwood 410.313.5597  
 Miller 410.313.1957  
 Savage 410.880.5867

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MISSION: Howard County Library System is your place to learn, grow, and connect.

VISION: An empowered community where all people reach their potential.

source sponsored in part by Friends & Foundation of HCLS.



**Letter from the President and CEO**

Are you ready for summer? Starting June 15, Summer Reading Adventures: Into the Wild invites readers of every age - from preschoolers to seniors - to visit the library and explore books, classes, and special events

(p. 3 & 4)! Kids through fifth grade can play gameboards suited to their age, while teens can once again fill raffle boxes with tickets for local prizes - and one grand prize. Adults can pick up a new field guide featuring a year of reading challenges, plus earn a prize for completing their first three challenges by August 15.

Summer reading matters in so many ways. Continuing to read while school is out helps keep young minds engaged and prepares learners for future success. Research from Dominican University<sup>1</sup> found that, "Students who participated in the public library summer reading program scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those... who did not..."

Just as importantly, summer reading connects us to one another. Visiting the library, attending programs, and sharing book recommendations help strengthen community ties and spark meaningful conversations - whether about a favorite novel, a new author, or a shared experience at a class or event.

We also celebrate the many ways our neighbors make the fabric of Howard County so vibrant and rich. May marks Asian American & Pacific Island Heritage Month (p. 12), and June brings both Pride (p. 7) and Juneteenth (p. 16). Throughout these months, our book clubs read and discuss titles that explore these important stories and perspectives.

Finally, as our country prepares to commemorate a remarkable milestone - 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence - we invite you to explore history with us. Our upcoming programs (p. 10) include two author visits and a lecture by University of Maryland professor Richard Bell. Stephanie Dray discusses her new book on Abigail Adams, and Ruth Watson introduces readers to Maggie Lena Walker, the first Black woman to establish and lead a bank in the United States.

I hope to see you at the library!

Tonya Aikens  
 President & CEO

<sup>1</sup> Susan Roman, Deborah T. Carran, and Carole D. Fiore, *The Dominican Study: Public Library Summer Reading Programs Close the Reading Gap* (River Forest, IL: Dominican University Graduate School of Library & Information Science, 2010).



Many thanks to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton for the location of the cover shoot.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Appropriate accommodations made at Howard County Library System (HCLS) sponsored events for individuals with special needs, if requested at least one week in advance.

**CONTENT AND ENDORSEMENT:**

The content of HCLS publications, classes, and events does not necessarily reflect the views held by HCLS, nor does mention of companies or organizations imply endorsement.

**PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE STATEMENT:**

Please see [www.hclibrary.org/about/media-notice](http://www.hclibrary.org/about/media-notice).



# SUMMER READING ADVENTURES into the WILD! June 15 - August 15

Read, listen, learn, connect, and celebrate all summer by participating in one of our summer reading programs. Receive a prize when you finish, while supplies last. For book lists, classes, events, and summer fun, visit us in person or at [hclibrary.org/summer](http://hclibrary.org/summer).

## Ages birth - 4

Head into the wild of your backyard, our Enchanted Garden, or anywhere butterflies love to take a rest on local flowers. Color butterflies on your game board, and when you get to 10, show off your achievement at the library!

## Ages 5 - 10

Plan for Summer Reading Adventures in the wild – whether camping, in a local park, or maybe on vacation. See what you can see – like Booker with his binoculars. Color all 15 fish in the big, blue river, then bring your game back to the library.

## Teens: Ages 11 - 18

Get a little wild with the return of the teen raffle! Finish 10 tickets and be entered into a grand prize drawing. Check your branch each month for raffles for local adventures (like ice cream and pizza).

## Adults: Ages 18+

Your next year's worth of reading challenges take you to new places and introduce you to new ideas. Get a booklet at any branch – finish three challenges and return for a prize.

## Beyond Words (teens and adults)

Everyone should be able to participate in summer reading, and Beyond Words invites our neighbors with special needs and developmental delays to join the fun!

## Summer Celebrations

For everyone.

Go wild at one of Howard County Library System's Summer Reading Celebration events! Activities may include crafts, games, live animals, and more.

Sponsored in part by Friends & Foundation of HCLS.

Wed	Jun 24	4 - 7 pm	Glenwood
Wed	Jun 24	5 - 7 pm	Central
Thu	Jul 9	5 - 7 pm	Elkridge
Wed	Jul 15	East Columbia 11:30 am - 2 pm (for everyone) & 6:30 - 7:30 pm (for adults)	
Sat	Jul 18	11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Savage
Thu	Jul 23	5 - 7 pm	Miller



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[hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org)

# No Rules. Just Read.

by Jean Boone, Central Branch

Aaahh, summer! A time to relax, to do less, to un-schedule. So why take on another commitment by picking up the library's Summer Reading Adventures?

Because Summer Reading is about pleasure, not pressure. Yes, there is a goal – for children of all ages to read in manageable chunks throughout the summer – and there is a prize (a free book to choose and keep) but there are NO RULES, and there are certainly NO TESTS. We know that reading is essential for learning. But recent studies suggest that reading for pleasure boosts mental health, empathy, sleep, and memory. It simply makes us feel good! Summer is the time for kids to discover what they love to read, and your free, public library is the place where discovery can happen.

With the youngest children, reading together builds connection, security, and fun, supporting future learning while generating pleasure in the moment. Your busy toddler may not sit for 10 minutes to read a book from cover to cover – don't sweat it! At this age, reading can mean many things and it's all good:

- Pointing to words, letters, colors, or shapes in books;
- Practicing turning the page, looking left to right, and lifting flaps;
- Noticing characters' faces and talking about feelings;
- Listening to audiobooks, rhymes, and poems;
- Singing simple songs and rhymes;
- Attending a library class for read-alouds, music, and fun.



For school-age children, Summer Reading means pleasure reading as they dip into whatever reflects their choices, their interests, and their curiosity. It's the opposite of an assignment! Summer opens up time for talking with friends and family about books, listening to stories on long car rides, or chatting with library staff about their favorites: all ways that kids can get inspired to try a new book, series, or genre. No paperwork is needed from adults (It's your summer, too!), but there are ways to promote the pleasure for kids.

Make the library and library outreach events a regular part of your summer routine.

- Give kids plenty of time to browse, to wander, to choose.
- Be flexible and encouraging: try different formats such as audiobooks, e-books, and e-magazines.
- Try reading a book that has a movie and watching the movie together after reading the book.
- Make it a family affair! Pick up the adult summer reading game to encourage your own pleasure reading or choose a book for reading/listening to as a family.

Summer Reading Adventures begin June 15, and it couldn't be easier: Read. Relax. Repeat.

## Summer Reading Adventures

Find more classes and events at [bit.ly/SummerReading26](http://bit.ly/SummerReading26)

### Little Learners: Summer of STEAM

Ages 3-5 with adult; 30 mins. Free ticket required.

Children learn through play and exploring the world around them. Stories and activities help with skills like getting along, talking and reading, moving and doing, math, science, and being creative.

Tuesdays Jun 2 - 30 10:30 - 11 am Elkridge

### Summer of STEAM: Camp Elkridge

Ages 6-10; 45 min. Free ticket required.

Create, discover, and explore the world around us as you do activities together to earn your Summer Reading completion prize. Tuesdays throughout the summer.

Tuesdays Jun 23 & 30 2 - 2:45 pm Elkridge

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit [hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org) > classes & events, then view the calendar, using the filters to narrow your search.

# Staff Spotlights:

## Emily Trovato & Tracey Gelner

Emily (left) is a Children's Instructor and Research Specialist at Elkridge Branch

**How long have you been with HCLS?**

6 years

**What excites you the most about summer reading?**

I'm with Tracey – helping children choose books they love is the best. Sometimes they have urgent questions about whiskers or train engines or prehistoric marine reptiles that I learned not to call dinosaurs. Sometimes it's a middle school friendship story. Or, a book about Minecraft or Bluey or Spiderman. It's all growing a love of reading that nurtures and empowers them. I also love seeing so many families and friends making time in the summer to visit the library together. They're reading out loud and bonding over stories, exploring fun activities, and making happy memories all together.

**What's your favorite place to go on vacation?**

Tough choice between the beach and a dark sky park with a view of the Milky Way. Assateague Island National Seashore is both!

**What kind of book do you like to read on vacation?**

Essays, short stories, new nonfiction - anything I can dip into that sparks new ideas and is fun to chat about and ponder.

**What was your first job?**

I remember drawing and distributing business cards for a peach stand I opened with my sisters around age 8. We harvested the peaches from my backyard and sold them in the front yard for 25 cents each, 5 cents if we were closing soon. I felt like a real entrepreneur, so I'll call that my first job.

**What book is on currently on your nightstand?**

*James* by Percival Everett, *There Are Rivers in the Sky* by Elif Shafak, *The Bog Queen* by Anna North, and *New York Times Puzzlemania!*

I'm planning a party to do the giant foldout crossword at the end of the book.

**Do you read more than one book at a time?**

Always, endlessly.

**Do you speak other languages?**

Spanish



Tracey (right) is a Children's Instructor and Research Specialist at Elkridge Branch

**How long have you been with HCLS?**

3.5 years

**What excites you the most about summer reading?**

I love getting to help children choose books they love. Summer is a great time to read for pleasure. Some children don't know where to start, and it's so great helping find books that interest them and watching the love of reading bloom.

**What's your favorite place to go on vacation?**

The beach

**What kind of book do you like to read on vacation?**

I love thrillers. I read a lot of mystery books.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was working in a genetics laboratory investigating Alzheimer's disease.

**Do you read more than one book at a time?**

Never. I usually get very lost in books and they are hard to put down until I am finished with them.

**What's your favorite place to travel?**

My favorite place I have ever traveled was Iceland. The landscape feels immense and is just so beautiful.

**Do you speak other languages?**

I wish I was fluent in other languages! I know a smattering of vocabulary from several different languages from school, music, and travelling, but I am not fluent in them.



# Get Ready for Adult Summer Reading

by Emily Bell, Central Branch

Daylight lingers later, sticky humidity sets in, and locusts buzz as the sun sets. Can you feel it? Summer Reading is just around the corner.

Once Summer Reading Adventures for all ages officially begin on Monday, June 15, adults can stop by any HCLS Branch to pick up a free reading journal packed with 12 wild reading challenges. Finish at least three challenges or read three books of your choice to complete the Adult Summer Reading Challenge. To help you gear up for the challenge, I asked my HCLS Central Branch colleagues about their favorite summer reads of years past. Here's what they recommend:

Ben and Kyle recommend some classics worth revisiting:

Ben recommends *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale* by Herman Melville. "Because it's about a whale! People often have more time to read during the summer (on a trip to the beach, perhaps?), so it makes sense to tackle a lengthy classic."

Kyle recommends *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. "Set in a tropical environment, the summer makes descriptions and tension feel more vivid in this book. Also, a great snapshot of what the beginning of what colonial transition looked like."

Julia and Roslyn recommend some romance:

Julia recommends *Love & Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch. "A summer spent abroad in Italy creates a gorgeous backdrop for the unearthing of family secrets and the start of a dreamy summer fling. There are two other delightful books in this trilogy that can be read in any order!"

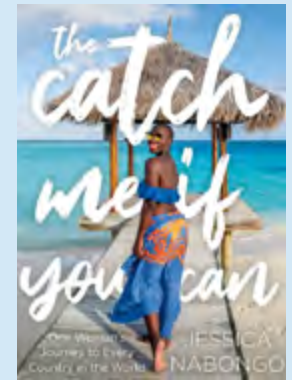
Roslyn recommends *Funny Story* by Emily Henry. "[A] fake dating plot to make their exes jealous? Of course it's predictable and gives a romcom feel, but that's why we read these, right?"

Wendy, April, and Tamarah recommend recent fiction favorites:

Wendy recommends *Long Island Compromise* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner. "I loved *Long Island Compromise* because of its sharp humor and painfully honest portrayal of a complicated Jewish family. It felt both deeply familiar and incredibly entertaining for a wild summer read!"

April recommends *Culpability* by Bruce Holsinger. "I read this book for a book club. It was so good that I finished it in a week. The AI element was so interesting that I was asking myself is science fiction turning into reality?"

Tamarah recommends *Daughter of the Merciful Deep* by Leslye Penelope. "Historical fiction mixed with fantasy/folklore set in the troubling history of drowned Black towns of the American South."



Angela and Brandon recommend inspiring nonfiction:

Angela recommends *Catch Me If You Can: One Woman's Journey to Every Country in the World* by Jessica Nabongo. "The cover of the book is what first drew me in. I found the author's story very inspirational, and the photographs in the book are beautiful and represent each country's culture and people in a very respectful way."

Brandon recommends *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. "I loved the relationship that the main character had with his teacher and their [weekly] conversations."

## Adult Summer Reading Showcase

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4sik4h4](https://bit.ly/4sik4h4)

Venture into the wild this summer at our live and in-person Adult Summer Reading Showcase! Get suggestions for fiction and nonfiction titles from HCLS Instructors. Explore the Adult Summer Reading 2026 list.

Tue Jun 2 6 - 7:30 pm Central



# Reads of Acceptance

by Angie Engles, Central Branch

If you had told me back in 1994, when I first started at the library, that one day I'd be facilitating a queer-focused book club with the library's full support, I would've laughed and said, "In what universe?" Yet here we are, decades later, gathering every month for Reads of Acceptance (ROA), a group that still feels a little miraculous.

ROA, which meets the third Monday of the month online, came to life during the COVID lockdown, when everything felt uncertain except the fact that our community needed connection. My co-facilitator, Ash, and I pitched the idea of a queer #ownvoices book group, and the library said yes. I still remember the thrill of that moment. More than five years later, ROA has discussed dozens and dozens of titles. The books we read stay with us; they spark conversations that linger long after the meeting ends.

Mondays; 7 - 8 pm      Online

May 18      *All of Us Murderers* by KJ Charles  
Jun 15      *The Unworthy* by Agustina Bazterrica

Some recent titles that have resonated include:

## *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong

In this poetic, heart-wrenching novel written from a son to his mother. Vuong's language is stunning. The story sparked conversations about identity, family, and the ways we carry our histories.



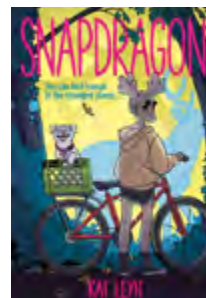
## *Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas

A YA fantasy featuring a trans brujo (Spanish for male witch, sorcerer or wizard) who summons a ghost and then falls for him. It's vibrant, affirming, and full of heart, giving us space to talk about chosen family and cultural recognition.



## *Snapdragon* by Kat Leyh

The graphic novel looks cute on the surface but packs a surprising emotional punch. It's quirky, magical, and full of characters discovering who they are. Our group adored its warmth and the way it treats queerness as something natural and celebrated.



## *A Sweet Sting of Salt* by Rose Sutherland

This lush, atmospheric retelling of the selkie myth has a sapphic twist. We talked about longing, transformation, and the power of reclaiming old stories through a queer lens.



## *The Chosen and the Beautiful* by Nghi Vo

Vo reimagines *The Great Gatsby*, but queer, Asian American, and infused with magic. It's dreamy, sharp, and utterly original, with themes of belonging and reinvention.



In a time when some people are working to erase or silence LGBTQ+ voices, reading queer stories feels simultaneously comforting and revolutionary. Reads of Acceptance started as a hope, grew into a community, and continues to be one of the most meaningful parts of my work.

## Queer Love: Writing Romantic Tension

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4cqNGnT](https://bit.ly/4cqNGnT)

Explores how to create romantic electricity on the page without relying on explicit scenes or cliches. Leave with two short scene drafts, a clearer understanding of how tension fuels storytelling, and practical tools for balancing emotional truth with restraint.

Wed      Jun 10      5 - 7 pm      Online

## Pride Button Making

Ages 6+; allow 20 minutes. Drop in.

Celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month by making a custom button to reflect your identity! Choose from the provided designs or create your own. All supplies provided.

Mon      Jun 15      5:30 - 7 pm      Elkridge

FOLLOW US:







# Teen LIVE!

## Music Celebration at East Columbia

Ages 11 - 18. Register at [bit.ly/4t8u6T4](https://bit.ly/4t8u6T4)

Get ready to rock at East Columbia's Teen Live Music Celebration! Whether you are a music lover, long-time band member, a new musician, or a karaoke champ, come to the ultimate jam session. Enjoy 3D printables, instrument demonstrations, crafts, open mic, food, live entertainment, and much more!

Thu May 14 3:30 - 5:30 pm East Columbia

## Traveling Through Time at Miller

Ages 11 - 18. Register at [bit.ly/teen-live-26](https://bit.ly/teen-live-26)

The past meets the future as we travel through time. This teen-takeover of the library features innovative and creative activities such as a scavenger hunt, crafts, programming robots to navigate a maze, exploring tiny worlds on the big screen with microscopes, solving giant puzzles, a chill room for laid-back activities, gaming, free food and snacks, awesome prizes, and surprises!

Tue Jun 30 3 - 5 pm Miller

## Electronic Rotating Ferris Wheel

For ages 11-17. Register at [bit.ly/4d1WPEe](https://bit.ly/4d1WPEe)

Build a functional, motorized miniature Ferris wheel that really spins! Dive into the mechanics of rotation, balance, and motion, as you experiment with structure, torque, and stability. Learn how engineers bring amusement rides (and other large rotating systems) safely to life.

Mon May 4 6 - 7:30 pm Elkridge

## Social Media Professionalism Work for Teens

For ages 11-17. Register at [bit.ly/4sbCxfz](https://bit.ly/4sbCxfz)

Learn how your online presence can impact your future with social media do's and don'ts and how to use platforms in a positive, professional way.

Presented by Howard County Workforce Development.

Thu May 7 3:30 - 5:30 pm Elkridge

## Make It: Hand-Sewn Cards

For teens and adults. Register at [bit.ly/4da0Zdc](https://bit.ly/4da0Zdc)

Did you know that you can sew paper? It's fun and easy to create greeting cards with hand-stitched details for any occasion.

Sat May 9 10 - 11 am Elkridge

## Teens Teach: Cents and Cents Ability Fair

For ages 11-17. Register at [bit.ly/4c65bJW](https://bit.ly/4c65bJW)

Ready to get a head start on your future? Enjoy a high-energy afternoon designed to help middle and high school students master the "real world" before it starts. Hear a keynote from a UMBC Professor, then compete with Financial Jeopardy: Test Your Knowledge and The "Life Audit" Simulation, then explore resource booths with information about saving, investing, and navigating college financial aid.

The Cents and Cents Ability Fair is part of the HCLS Teens Teach initiative, in which teens develop, plan, and share their passions and expertise with the community.

Sat May 23 1 - 4 pm Elkridge

## Job Search Workshop For Teens

Ages 11-17. Register at [bit.ly/4bxzyJi](https://bit.ly/4bxzyJi)

Learn how to search for jobs effectively using online tools and other resources. Practice reading job postings, identifying key skills, and completing applications with confidence.

Presented by Howard County Workforce Development.

Thu May 28 3:30 - 5:30 pm Elkridge



Events are presented as part of HoCo250, Howard County's local initiative commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Through programs, events, and community partnerships, HoCo250 highlights the people, places, and stories that connect Howard County to our nation's history.

### Dr. Bell Lecture Series: Streetcars and Street Fights in Jim Crow New York

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/Jim-CrowNY](http://bit.ly/Jim-CrowNY)

Thu May 7 7 - 8 pm online

On Sunday, July 16, 1854, Elizabeth Jennings, an African American schoolteacher and choir-mistress, stepped onto a "whites only" streetcar on New York's Third Avenue. When the conductor threw her off, leaving her battered and bruised, Jennings sued for damages, launching the first successful civil disobedience campaign in US history.

Led by University of Maryland historian Richard Bell, this talk examines why streetcars were the locus of such frequent and fraught attempts to police the color line in the Jim Crow North and why Black women drove this extraordinary campaign for civil rights.

### Author Works: *A Founding Mother* with Stephanie Dray

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/founding-mother-eco](http://bit.ly/founding-mother-eco)

Tue May 19 7 - 8 pm  
East Columbia 50+ Center

Author Stephanie Dray discusses her new novel co-written with Laura Kamoie, *A Founding Mother*. This novel is a sweeping, intimate portrayal of Abigail Adams – wife of one president and mother to another – whose wit, willpower, and wisdom helped shape the fledgling republic. From war-torn streets to the chandeliered halls of power, learn the unforgettable story of a woman ahead of her time – one whose voice, vision, and valor still resonate powerfully today. Dray discusses this stunning historical novel with modern-day implications.



TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit [hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org) > classes & events, then view the calendar, using the filters to narrow your search.



### Author Works: *A Right Worthy Woman* by Ruth Watson

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/Author-Watson](http://bit.ly/Author-Watson)

Sat Jun 13  
1 - 2 pm Miller

This inspiring and thought-provoking novel is based on the

remarkable true story of Maggie Lena Walker, the first Black woman to establish and preside over a bank in the United States, whose actions transformed her community of Jackson Ward into Virginia's Black Wall Street.

Maggie Lena Walker is ambitious and unafraid. After a childhood spent helping her mother with her laundry service and with single-minded determination, Maggie buckles down and elevates herself from schoolteacher to Right Worthy Grand Secretary of the Independent Order of St. Luke. Finally in a position to effect major change, Maggie sets a plan in motion to establish the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank to help the people of Jackson Ward turn their nickels into dollars.

Spanning from 1876 through to the early days of the Great Depression, the novel gives us a glimpse into who Maggie Lena Walker was and what she accomplished in her lifetime, alongside famed activist friends such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Mary McLeod Bethune.

Watson is the author of several other titles, and she is the recipient of a fellowship from the Fulton County Arts Council and a residency from the Caversham Centre for Artists and Writers in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, where she published her first children's book in Zulu, *Our Secret Bond*. She is a freelance writer and member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and has written for *Upscale*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and other publications. She is an adjunct professor and project manager who lives with her family in Atlanta, Georgia.

Presented in partnership with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Columbia (MD) Alumnae Chapter.

### National Gallery Of Art: Breaking the Rules in Modern Art - American Modernism

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/nat-gal-art](http://bit.ly/nat-gal-art)

Through close looking and conversation, docents from The National Gallery of Art explore how American artists departed from traditional materials and subject matter while grappling with the modern world during the first half of the 20th century.

Mon May 18 2 - 3 pm online

### Columbia, Maryland: Building Hope for the Next American City

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4so2VDx](http://bit.ly/4so2VDx)

In 1966, the groundbreaking of Columbia, Maryland, marked the start of an ambitious vision: a community designed to be a model for "The Next America." Join Erin Berry, archivist at the Columbia Maryland Archives, to discover how Columbia was built with intention and a hopeful vision for what an American city could be. In partnership with the Columbia Association.

Sat Jun 6 2 - 3:30 pm Elkridge

### National Gallery Of Art: Dialogues in Modern and Contemporary American Art

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/nat-gal-art](http://bit.ly/nat-gal-art)

Discover connections and "dialogues" between modern and contemporary works of American art in our collection. Docents from The National Gallery of Art explore artistic process and



uncover layers of meaning in painting and sculpture through close looking and in-depth conversation. The Dialogues tour includes a special sketching component.

Mon Jun 8 2 - 3 pm online

### History Relived: 250th through Movies

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4si9hV7](http://bit.ly/4si9hV7)

Gather a new perspective on the 250 year history of America through movies, including actual events and fictional interpretations. Discuss perspectives of how American history is interpreted in movies such as *1776*, *Independence Day*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, and others.

Tue Jun 30 11 - 12 pm Glenwood

# Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

## Lei Day!

Ages 3 & up with adult. Free ticket required.

Celebrate the Aloha spirit through Hawaiian stories and make a lei.

Fri May 1  
11:30 am - 12:15 pm Savage

## Lecture: Cherry Blossom Festival

For teens & adults. Register at [bit.ly/4sPUjWi](https://bit.ly/4sPUjWi)

What is it about cherry trees, or sakura, that makes them so beloved? During this virtual field trip, explore hanami, the traditional Japanese custom of "flower viewing." Through paintings, woodblock prints, and other art forms, discover Japanese symbols, values, and traditions associated with blooming cherry trees.

Presented by the Smithsonian Museum of Asian Art.

Sat May 2 2 - 3 pm Elkridge

## Rock on with Bollywood

For adults. Must be 18+. Waiver and registration required.

Register at [bit.ly/4dFOyHU](https://bit.ly/4dFOyHU)

Rock on to Bollywood music as Bollywood dancer Jaya Mathur demonstrates and teaches the basic steps of Bollywood dancing. Please dress in appropriate attire conducive to movement and comfort.

Wed May 13 6:30 - 7:30 pm Miller

## Supernatural Stories from Japan

For teens & adults. Register at [bit.ly/4dwRQeO](https://bit.ly/4dwRQeO)

Explore, if you dare, the roles that ghosts and spirits play in the retelling of Japanese legends and real events. Investigate artwork from Japan and discover stories of scary ghosts, powerful demons, and funny monsters.

Presented by the Smithsonian Museum of Asian Art.

Thu May 14 2 - 3 pm Elkridge

## Family Story & Craft: Hooray for Soy Sauce!

Families, Ages 6 and up. Free ticket required.

Work together on crafts and activities as you listen to *Soy Sauce!* by Laura Lee. Learn about the history of this delicious condiment, then craft a soy sauce charm bracelet or keychain.

Tue May 19 6:15 - 7 pm Miller

## International Grocery Store Tour: H-Mart

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4mI9aWQ](https://bit.ly/4mI9aWQ)

Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month with a guided tour at H-Mart in Ellicott City led by a community member who is a native of Korea, this immersive experience introduces the rich flavors, ingredients, and culinary traditions of Korean cuisine.

During the tour, explore key sections of the store, learn about commonly used ingredients, and gain insights into how these items are used in everyday Korean cooking. From pantry staples to snacks and specialty items, this tour offers a welcoming and educational opportunity to expand cultural understanding through food.

Whether you are new to Korean cuisine or looking to deepen your knowledge, this program encourages curiosity, cultural exchange, and support for local businesses.

Wed May 20 3 - 4:30 pm  
H-Mart, Ellicott City

**Aloha!**  
**สวัสดี!**  
**Kamusta!**

Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures are rich in great food, beautiful traditions and clothing, and – of course – diverse and interesting languages! **Want to learn one of them? Mango Languages offers several Asia-Pacific languages including:**

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**Archangel's Ascension by Nalini Singh**  
This is a breathtakingly passionate return to Guild Hunter World.



**Next Time Will Be Our Turn by Jesse Q. Sutanto**  
A grandmother tells her granddaughter about her journey to who she is now in this sweeping love story.



**Water Mirror Echo: Bruce Lee and the Making of Asian America by Jeff Chang**  
This is a cultural biography, both sweeping and intimate, of the legend Bruce Lee, set against the extraordinary, untold story of the rise of Asian America.



**Mahjong: House Rules From Across the Asian Diaspora by Nicole Wong**  
With Mahjong as your guide, learn the history and evolution of this beautiful game while you connect with friends, family, and culture.



**Yes We Will: Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country by Kelly Yang**  
This lyrical nonfiction picture book features eighteen Asian American changemakers and two pivotal moments in Asian American history, illustrated by fifteen Asian and Asian American artists.



**Let's Make Dumplings!: A Comic Book Cookbook by Hugh Amano**

Including dumpling history and lore, this comic book cookbook invites readers to explore the big little world of Asian dumplings and proves that intricate folding styles and flavorful fillings are achievable in the home kitchen.

**HCLS Book Clubs Reading AAPI Month Titles**

Check [hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org) > classes & events to register for one of these, or to find more book clubs and other AAPI related classes.

**Global Reads**

Mon, May 4 6 - 7 pm Miller  
*Lunar New Year Love Story* by Gene Luen Yang

**Books on Tap**

Wed, May 6 6 - 7:15 pm Columbia Ale House  
*The Fox Wife* by Yangsze Choo

**Between The Lines**

Fri, May 8 5 - 6 pm Brewing Good  
*Monstrous: A Transracial Adoption Story* by Sarah Myer

**Eclectic Evenings**

Tue, May 12 6:45 - 7:45 pm Online  
*Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu

**Mystery**

Wed, May 13 6:30 - 7:30 pm Savage  
*The Golden Gate* by Amy Chua

**Asian American Literature**

Mon, May 18 7 - 8:30 pm Online  
*We Carry the Sea in Our Hands* by Janie Kim

**Nonfiction**

Wed, May 20 6:30 - 7:30 pm Savage  
*Man of Two Faces: A Memoir, A History, A Memorial* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

**Nonfiction Addiction**

May 21 7 - 8 pm East Columbia  
*The Backyard Bird Chronicles* by Amy Tan

**Good Reads**

Fri, May 22 12:30 - 1:30 pm East Columbia  
*The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri

**In Other Worlds**

Wed, May 27 7 - 8 pm East Columbia  
*The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley

# Mental Health Awareness Month

by Sahana Callahan, Administrative Branch

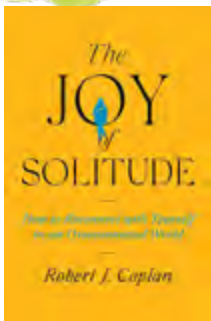
Each May, Mental Health Awareness Month offers an opportunity to slow down and take stock of how we're doing and what we need. At the library, this doesn't just mean awareness, but access: to information, support, and spaces where people can explore mental health topics without stigma or pressure.

This year, we're hosting the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to present "In Our Own Voice," a presentation designed to change attitudes, assumptions, and ideas about people with mental health conditions. Trained volunteers provide their unique perspectives on living with mental health conditions by sharing personal narratives to help break down the stigma of mental illness and show others they are not alone. The program is designed to offer clear, practical information about mental health, along with pathways to local resources. Whether someone is navigating their own experience or supporting a loved one, the goal is the same: to make starting that conversation feel a little more possible.

We're also continuing targeted outreach through partnerships supporting veterans through social workers at our Central and Savage branches. These efforts recognize that mental health is not one-size-fits-all, and that different communities benefit from different entry points to care and connection. These services include connections to housing resources, as well as a food pantry, laundry room, and of course, mental health services, for veterans struggling with homelessness or facing potential eviction.

Staff from Grassroots Crisis Intervention offer support and resources to community members experiencing mental health issues, substance use disorders, homelessness, and food insecurity concerns. They visit in person at Central, East Columbia, and ElkrIDGE branches: [bit.ly/Grassroots-HCLS](https://bit.ly/Grassroots-HCLS). These partnerships help ensure professionals are available to bridge the gap between information and action.

Mental health conversations don't have to be perfect to be meaningful. Sometimes they start with a program, resources, or simply a person willing to listen in a safe place. At the library, we aim to be your place for all of it.

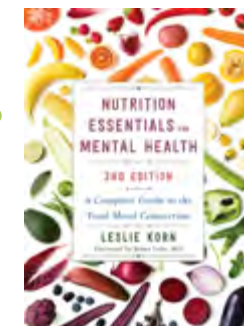
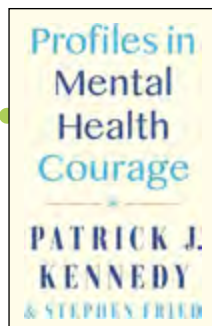


***The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World* by Robert J. Coplan**

This is a vital resource for those who wish to understand the complexities of solitude and its potential to enhance mental health, creativity, and self-discovery.

***The Johns Hopkins Guide to Psychological First Aid: A Practical Approach to Helping Family, Friends, Coworkers, and Others Cope* by George S. Everly**

By making psychological first aid as accessible as physical first aid, this guide acts as an essential toolkit for being there when someone needs you most.

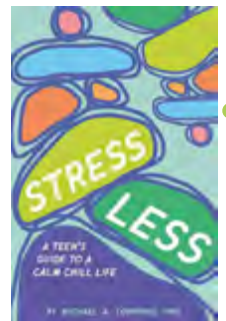


***Profiles in Mental Health Courage* by Patrick J. Kennedy**

This book offers deeply compelling stories about the bravery and resilience of those living with a variety of mental illnesses and addictions.

***Nutrition Essentials for Mental Health: A Complete Guide to the Food-Mood Connection* by Leslie Korn**

This practical guide untangles the complex relationship between what we eat and the way we think, feel, and interact with the world.



## NAMI: In Our Own Voice

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4rNuQfg](https://bit.ly/4rNuQfg)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presents In Our Own Voice, a presentation designed to change attitudes, assumptions, and ideas about people with mental health conditions. Trained volunteers provide their unique perspectives on living with mental health conditions by sharing personal narratives to help break down the stigma of mental illness and show others they are not alone.

The presentation also helps the community understand that people with mental health conditions have lives enriched by hopes, dreams, and goals. There will be a chance to ask the presenters questions allowing for a deeper understanding of mental health conditions and dispelling of stereotypes and misconceptions. The presentation also provides information on how to learn more about mental health and get involved with the mental health community.

Thu May 7 6:15 - 7:45 pm Central

## Dementia Live Simulation

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/40MNo4b](https://bit.ly/40MNo4b)

In collaboration with the Howard County Office of Aging & Independence, Dementia Live® is an immersive, experiential training designed to help people better understand what it feels like to live with dementia. Through a guided simulation experience, gain firsthand insight into sensory and cognitive changes associated with dementia, emotional effects of confusion and frustration, communication challenges that impact daily care, and practical ways to improve empathy and care delivery. The result is a deeper understanding that transforms how people approach dementia care.

Thu Jun 18 5:30 - 7:30 pm Miller

### *Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories that Smash Mental Health Stereotypes*

Channeling their own experiences, sixteen exceptional authors subvert mental health stereotypes in a powerful and uplifting collection of fiction.

### *Stress Less: A Teen's Guide to a Calm Chill Life* by Michael A. Tompkins

Learn about concrete skills for managing stress and anxiety, organized into common "stress domains" such as family, friends, dating, school, and media.

## DIY & Makers

### Ask an Expert Cyclist

For everyone. All ages; 9 and under with adult. Information at [bit.ly/4bDzQge](https://bit.ly/4bDzQge)

Drop in and learn to fix a flat, raise a seat, adjust the brakes, or get answers to other basic cycling questions. Learn how and where to ride, cycling-related discounts, group rides and racing, commuting, and regular repair and maintenance. Bring your own bike for specific advice. No registration required.

Sat	May 9	11 am - 1 pm	Miller
Sat	May 23	11 am - 1 pm	Savage
Sat	Jun 6	11 am - 1 pm	Elkridge
Sat	Jun 13	11 am - 1 pm	East Columbia

### Audio Visual Workshop

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/47gdNLj](https://bit.ly/47gdNLj)

Gain practical knowledge about audio-visual software and tools that you can use in your personal and professional life. Each month we highlight a skill or piece of equipment. All the tools inside of the AV Lab are available, including the audio recording booth, digital illustration tablets, musical instruments, and 3D printing materials.

Saturdays May 23 & Jun 6  
1 - 3 pm Savage

### Digital Design Lab

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/47gdNLj](https://bit.ly/47gdNLj)

Explore, create, and experiment in our digital design lab. Access our fully equipped recording booth, professional digital design and audio software (including Adobe Creative Suite and GarageBand), and high-quality voice recording gear. Features a variety of digital tools for illustration, video editing, and a 3D printer for hands-on creative projects. No experience required, just bring your ideas and curiosity. Perfect for beginners, hobbyists, and creatives of all kinds

Mondays; 1 - 3 pm Savage  
May 4, 11, 18 & June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

### AI Voice and Video Generators

For adults. Register at [bit.ly/4dz1ldx](https://bit.ly/4dz1ldx)

Have you heard about voice-cloning, digital avatars, or text-to-video? Learn how artificial intelligence programs can turn scripts and a few sentences into realistic voices and videos in a matter of minutes.

Mon May 4 10 - 11 am Glenwood

# BLACK MUSIC HISTORY MONTH: JAZZ



by Alex Pyryt, Administrative Branch

To appreciate jazz, one of America's most unique musical forms, all you need to do is listen. First came the blues, an expressive and improvisational form of music with deep roots in West African music forms. Then, out of the form of the blues, musicians in New Orleans created jazz (originally spelled "jass"), "hot" music that was fun to listen and dance to, which spread throughout clubs, and then, after being recorded for the first time in 1917, throughout the world.

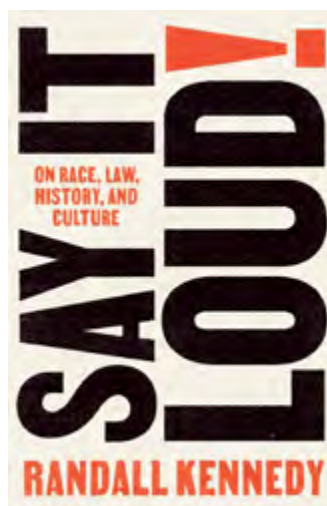
Ken Burns, as he does for most things American, lays out an excellent history the genres in his colossal documentary *Jazz* (available on Kanopy), laying the groundwork and then covering a century of American music. Through 10 installments, he traces the genealogy of jazz and blues from its origins and covers biographies of the most iconic jazz musicians. My favorite parts, though, are the delightful

## On Juneteenth

by Brandon Bannister, Central Branch

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, many Americans are reflecting on an important question: Has the United States ever truly been the "land of milk and honey" that so many hoped it would be?

One of the most important moments in that story is Juneteenth, observed each year on June 19. Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas learned they were free – more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued during the American Civil War. The day serves as both a celebration of freedom and a reminder that the promise of liberty has often unfolded gradually throughout American history.



This Juneteenth, you are invited to explore these stories at the Central Branch Equity Resource Center & Collection. The collection offers books, DVDs, and CDs that highlight diverse voices, cultures, and historical experiences that have shaped the fabric of the United States.

If you are looking for a place to begin, consider borrowing one of these insightful titles: *Slavery by Another Name* by Douglas A. Blackmon, *New Prize for These Eyes: The Rise of America's Second Civil Rights Movement* by Juan Williams, and *Say It Loud!* by Randall Kennedy. These works provide powerful perspectives on the struggles and achievements that have shaped the pursuit of freedom in America.

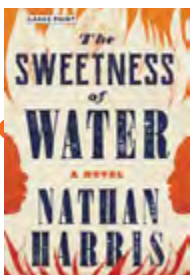
As we honor Juneteenth and look ahead to the nation's 250th anniversary, the library invites readers of all ages to explore, learn, and reflect together. By engaging with these stories, our community can continue building a deeper understanding of the past and a stronger vision for the future.

interviews with Gerald Early, Stanley Crouch, and Wynton Marsalis (who also illustrates concepts and playing styles with his trumpet).

Also released around the time of the documentary were companion albums, the *Ken Burns Jazz* series, all of which are available through Freegal to stream with your library card. The series ranges from the familiars (Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong) to the avant-garde (Ornette Coleman). Since Freegal also includes Columbia Music's entire catalog, it also includes Miles Davis's most iconic albums, including mammoth box sets dedicated to the complete recording sessions for albums like *Jack Johnson* or *In a Silent Way*.

Not only does *Jazz* give the viewer the vocabulary to understand and appreciate jazz, and serviceable biographies of its originators and greatest players, it also shows that jazz is a dialogue. Players share techniques and styles with one another when they perform and record their music. Performing jazz involves a deep connection with your fellow players during an electrifying act as you improvise and play off of each other. Again, all you have to do is listen to hear the full spectrum of human emotion jazz music can accomplish – Coltrane at his wildest and freest still feels revelatory, and "Hello, Dolly!" by Louis Armstrong may be the closest music can sound to a smile.

Available for free at [hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org) > digital library



***The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris**

This is an epic novel whose grandeur locates humanity and love amid the most harrowing circumstances.

***A High Price for Freedom: Raising Hidden Voices from the African American Past* by Clyde W. Ford**

This fascinating history gives voice to long-silent African Americans from the past, allowing them to tell their own stories that shed new light on critical moments in the Black Freedom Struggle.

***In Slavery's Wake: Making Black Freedom in the World* edited by Paul Gardullo**

Poignant and insightful, the collection examines the long shadow of slavery and looks toward building a freer future beyond it.

***The Story of Juneteenth: An Interactive History Adventure* by Steven Otfinoski**

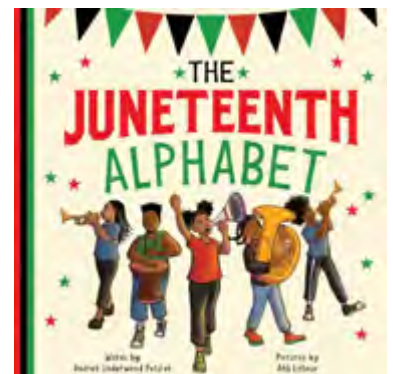
In a "you choose" format, explore the history of Juneteenth Day, including the Emancipation Proclamation, the post-Civil War South, and efforts to end racism.

***A Most Perilous World: The True Story of the Young Abolitionists and Their Crusade Against Slavery* by Kristina R. Gaddy**

Discover the story of America's tumultuous years leading up to the Civil War and of the war itself from the viewpoints of four children of famous abolitionists, including those of Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison.

***The Juneteenth Alphabet* by Andrea Underwood Petifer**

Celebrate Juneteenth with this heartfelt introduction for kids ages 3 to 6. There is a complex history behind Juneteenth – but kids (and their adults) can find celebratory moments of joy and inspiration as they learn about the origins and traditions of this day of freedom (for all!).



# HCLS Annual Bookmark Contest

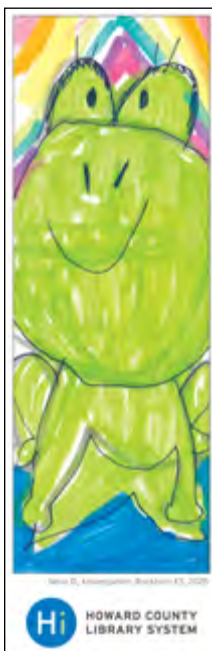
THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

New this year: Adult (ages 18+) category

We want to see what you can imagine! Draw anything that you love and want to share that uses the given space in interesting ways, and maybe brings a smile to someone's face.

OPTIONAL THEME: FINDING JOY!

Find contest entry forms in branches and online.



## Summer Meals & Snacks

FREE summer meals and afternoon snacks for children and teens ages 18 and under. Children must be present to receive free meals.

HCPSS Summer Food Sites  
[bit.ly/hcpss-summer-meals](http://bit.ly/hcpss-summer-meals)

To continue meeting the need to feed hungry children and families and fill the nutritional gap over the summer months, the Howard County Public School System continues its free summer meal program. Other sites listed on HCPSS webpage.

Lunch served:

Monday - Friday  
 Jun 24 - Jul 31 12:30 - 2 pm  
 East Columbia and Elkridge Branches

### Snacks at the Library

Sponsored by Good Harvest

Mon - Fri Jun 1 - Aug 31  
 Central 2 - 3 pm  
 East Columbia 3:15 - 3:45 pm



Sign up for newsletters to stay on top of all the great classes and events happening at HCLS.

Scan the QR Code or visit [hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org) > About Us and opt in to the ones that interest you:



- Children
- Teens
- Adults
- Makers: Makerspace, DIY, AV Lab
- Author events
- HiLights: general HCLS news
- Early Literacy
- Equity Resource Center & Collection

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES: Visit [hclibrary.org](http://hclibrary.org) > classes & events, then view the calendar, using the filters to narrow your search.

# thank you!



Our sincere thanks to the individuals, organizations, and businesses for their generous financial and in-kind donations to Howard County Library System. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list of those who made contributions between Jan 1 - Feb 28, 2026. Please call 410.313.7799 to report any errors or omissions.

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**TRIBUTES**

In memory of Kathleen S. Glascock: Robert Owings Glascock  
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## PRESIDENTIAL CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

- Dr. Lillian Bauder
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## REGISTRATION COMING SOON:

### The Bauder Adult Battle of the Books in Howard County!

Think kids get to have all the fun? Think again! Get ready to put your reading chops to the test in our Bauder Adult Battle of the Books! This Friends fundraiser sold out last year, and we are launching its second year. Teams compete in a lively showdown of bookish knowledge, bragging rights, and maybe even a prize or two!

This is a trivia-style competition for book lovers, modeled after the popular kids' Battle of the Books – but for adults! Expect challenging questions, hilarious moments, and a community of readers ready to battle it out for the ultimate literary glory.

**When? Team registration opens June 15.**  
 Stay tuned for the official competition dates – but we're gearing up for October battle nights. Visit [friendshcls.org](http://friendshcls.org) to learn more.

Sponsorships are welcome: Whether you're a local business, bookstore, or just want to pay it forward and sponsor a team – we'd love to team up! Send us an email with any questions: [friends@hclibrary.org](mailto:friends@hclibrary.org).

*Get ready to read.*

*Get ready to battle.*

*And most of all, get ready to have FUN!*



Join at [friendshcls.org](http://friendshcls.org)



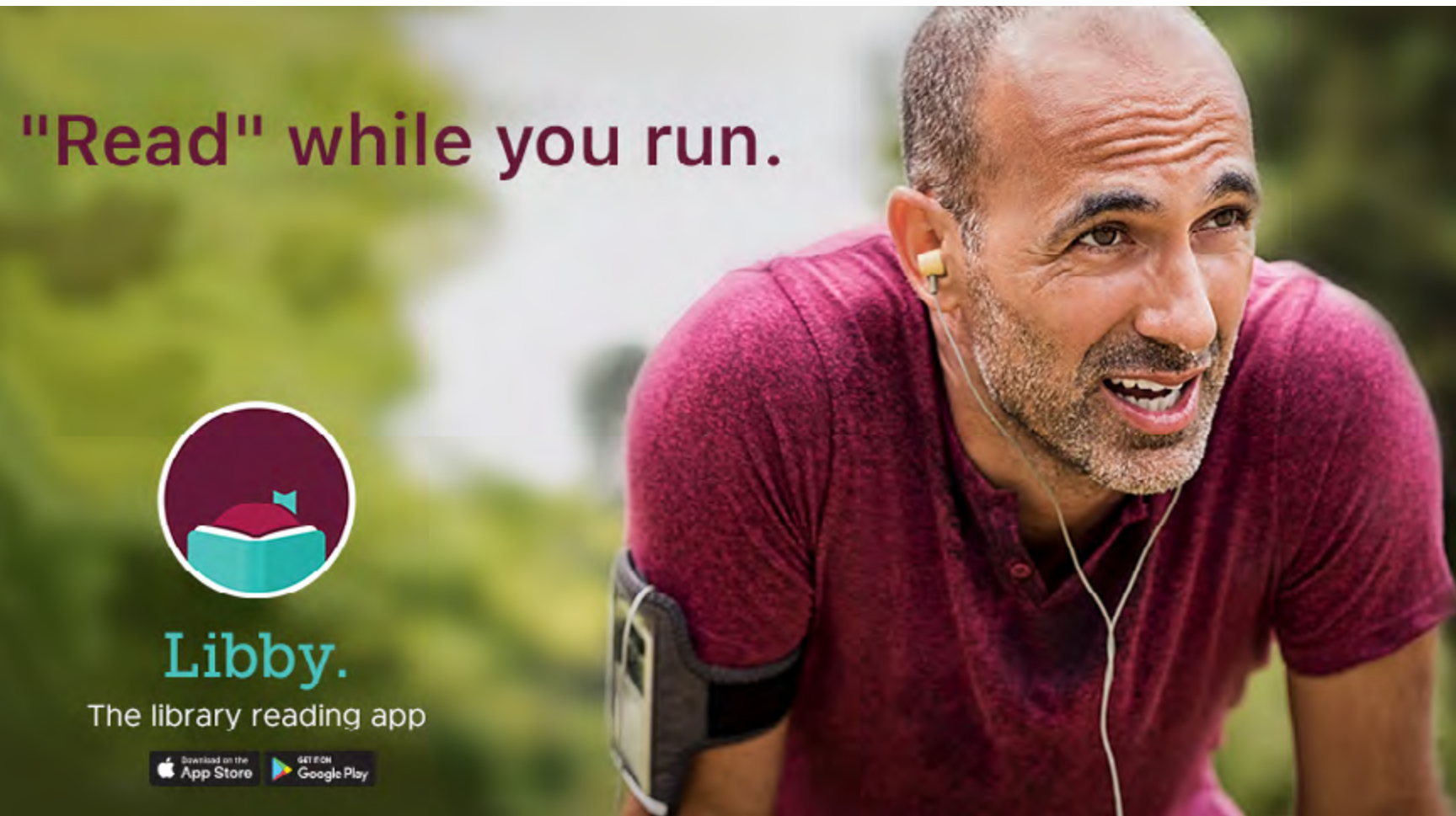
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The library reading app

