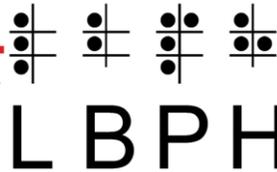




Maryland  
State Library



# Beyond the Stacks:

*Making Maryland Accessible*

*New Series, #1 (July thru Sept. 2017)*

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### From the Director's Desk:

Welcome to Summer 2017! And welcome to the first edition of our brand new newsletter, *Beyond the Stacks*.

It has been an eventful spring at LBPH and summer is shaping up to be just as exciting! The library is undergoing some wonderful changes and adding new faces to our team, all in the hopes of providing our patrons with the best possible service.

We have been working on updating and expanding our collection with the addition of a new Collection Development Librarian—Mary Ramos. Over the next year, Mrs. Ramos plans to update and add to the Marylandia collection as well, so be on the lookout!

In addition to Mary Ramos joining our team, we have added a Business Manager, Matthew Nixon. With his background, Mr. Nixon will be helping LBPH make strides in using the State of Maryland funding to keep the library running at peak efficiency.

The library also welcomes LaShawn Myles, formally of the Baltimore City Schools, as our new Youth Services Librarian. As a former K-8 School Library Media Specialist, Ms. Myles will help the library develop services for our younger patrons.

Additionally, to help advertise and promote current and future services, the library welcomes Ashley Biggs as our new Outreach Librarian. Ms. Biggs' background of library and community relations will help us connect to our potential patrons statewide.

The library welcomes Lisa McDowell as LBPH secretary. Ms. McDowell joins the LBPH team with many years of administrative and office management experience and will be a key component in ensuring the efficient operation of library services.

The Maryland Accessible Textbook (MAT) program welcomes Lisa Washington as Management Associate and Tia Nelson as MAT secretary. Ms. Washington and Ms. Nelson join Biancaja Sugars on Joe Beckett's team converting textbooks in PDF format into an audio format. Both Ms. Washington and Ms. Nelson have years of customer service and technical services experience that will make them invaluable to the quick turnaround of accessible textbooks.

Finally, LBPH welcomes Kimberly Brown, who will be joining our Patron Services Department. Ms. Brown's years of experience working with client management and data processing systems will allow us to process library patron applications in a more time-efficient manner, thus sending out welcome packets and new digital players quickly.

There is, of course, more to come as we transition from where we are now to where we want to be: *a true lifeline for our patrons*. Each and every team member is truly dedicated to our mission, and we are excited to share our biggest changes with you as they happen.

-Leslie Bowman, Director, LBPH

## Meet the LBPH Staff:

*John Owen, Assistant Director*



Mr. John Owen is the Assistant Director of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Mr. Owen joined the LBPH team in February of 2016 and approaches his position from a “patron centric” philosophy. “I believe that the patrons should come first,” he says. “I truly enjoy working with and speaking with our patrons. And I enjoy helping them use our services.”

Mr. Owen’s previous accomplishments include having been the Assistant Manager of the Baltimore County Public Library’s Perry Hall, Towson, and the Mobile Services branches. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing the keyboard for his church and coffee houses, singing, and gardening.

## National Library News & Updates:

The National Library Services for the Blind & Physically Handicapped at the Library of Congress has been working behind the scenes to enhance accessibility to their website and will replace their current website sometime in early July. The new website is designed to accommodate blind and reduced-vision users while providing every visitor a more user-friendly experience. Additionally, NLS is working on the development new technologies to enhance the end-user experience for all NLS patrons, including the development of new wireless reading devices that would allow the wireless transmission of talking-books directly to the patron upon

demand. This technology is still in the early stages but looks promising.

—Taken from the NLS Press Release of 6/21/2017

### Summer Reading Challenge for LBPH Kids: *Build a Better World*

If you or your child has not signed up for the library's K12 summer reading program, there is still time! You can sign your child up in one of three ways:

- Stop by the reference desk at the Library on 415 Park Ave., Baltimore and ask for a sign-up form.
- Email us at [reference.desk@maryland.gov](mailto:reference.desk@maryland.gov)
- Call us at 410-230-2443

Every child that signs up and keeps track of the books they read will receive a certificate of achievement and a summer reading t-shirt.

Please sign up no later than August 25<sup>th</sup> to receive your prize.

### Writer's Live Events at LBPH

- Thursday, 9/14, Richard Harteis, *Reunion* and Grace Cavalieri, *Other Voices, Other Lives*  
National Endowment for the Arts recipient Richard Harteis will read from his fifteenth book, *Reunion*, and 2015 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Washington Independent Review of Books*, Grace Cavalieri will read from her forthcoming book, *Other Voices, Other Lives*.
- Tuesday, 9/26, Joel Shurkin, *True Genius*  
*True Genius* by Joel N. Shurkin is the first biography of Richard Garwin, one of America's great minds—a top physicist, a brilliant technological innovator, and a trusted advisor to presidents for sixty years. Shurkin is a freelance science writer, former science reporter at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for covering the Three Mile Island nuclear-reactor disaster.
- Wednesday, 10/11, John R. Wennersten and Denise Robbins, *Rising Tide*

*Rising Tides* sounds an urgent wakeup call to the growing crisis of climate refugees, and offers an essential, continent-by-continent look at these dangers. Detailing a number of solutions, Wennersten and Robbins argue that no nation can tackle this universal problem alone. John R. Wennersten is an environmental affairs writer.

- Tuesday, 10/24 Mel Goodman, *Whistleblower at the CIA*  
Melvin A. Goodman was a Soviet analyst at the CIA and the Department of State for 24 years, and a professor of international relations at the National War College for 18 years. He has authored, co-authored, and edited seven books.
- Wednesday, 10/25 David Gray, *The Fourth Amendment in an Age of Surveillance*  
In his new book, David Gray uncovers the original meaning of the Fourth Amendment to reveal how its historical guarantees of collective security against threats of "unreasonable searches and seizures" can provide concrete solutions to the current crisis.

## One Maryland, One Book

Maryland Humanities Council created One Maryland One Book (OMOB) to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book. We invite you to participate in book-centered discussions and related programs at public libraries, high schools, colleges, museums, bookstores, and community and senior centers around the state.

2017 Book: ***Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**  
*MacArthur Genius Award Recipient*  
**DB58294**

Fifteen-year-old Kambili and her older brother Jaja lead a privileged life in Enugu, Nigeria. They live in a beautiful house, with a caring family, and attend an exclusive missionary school. They're completely shielded from the troubles of the world. Yet, as Kambili reveals in her tender-voiced account, things are less than perfect than they appear. Although her Papa is generous and well respected, he is fanatically religious and tyrannical at home—a home that is silent and suffocating. As the country begins to fall apart under a

military coup, Kambili and Jaja are sent to their aunt, a university professor outside the city, where they discover a life beyond the confines of their father's authority. Books cram the shelves, curry and nutmeg permeate the air, and their cousins' laughter rings throughout the house. When they return home, tensions within the family escalate, and Kambili must find the strength to keep her loved ones together. *Purple Hibiscus* is an exquisite novel about the emotional turmoil of adolescence, the powerful bonds of family, and the bright promise of freedom.

<https://www.mdhumanities.org/news/chimamanda-ngozi-adichies-award-winning-novel-purple-hibiscus-is-the-2017-one-maryland-one-book/>

### Special Announcements & Closings:

- The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will be closed on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day.
- Please return any unused or no longer needed Large Print bags. Our supply is running low.
- The library is currently undergoing some wonderful changes, including the addition of new staff members to help increase services and meet the needs of our patrons. Please stay tuned for more information in our next newsletter!

### LBPH F.A.Q.:

#### My book isn't reading in the player! Now what?

Occasionally, it happens that a book sent out may not play on your player. You may receive an error message or the book may skip around. If this happens, please let us know immediately either via phone or email. We have systems in place to help ensure that you have a positive reading experience. We will do our best to reserve and send a new copy to you as quickly as possible. Please put a note **INSIDE** the container, and we will find it when the container is returned.

#### Here are some things that we ask you **NOT** to do:

Please do not write on the cartridge or container.

Please do not tape notes to outside of the cartridge or container.

We really appreciate your help in identifying books that need may need a little extra care! Thanks!

### [I got some books I didn't ask for—what should I do?](#)

No worries! Sometimes, it happens that you are sent a book you didn't request or sent a book from our automated system that doesn't suit your tastes. Just call or email us and we can send you something more to your liking. We only ask that you return any book you're not listening to as quickly as possible so we can get it to the next patron on the waiting list.

### [What is BARD Express?](#)

BARD Express provides our patrons with an easy way to access BARD, our digital book download service. Using BARD Express, you can access thousands of audiobooks and magazines, download them to any Windows based machine and then transfer them to a USB Flash Drive or Digital Book Cartridge. Using as little as four key strokes, you can download the latest copy of your favorite author's audiobook quickly without having to wait for mail delivery. For more information, call us! We'd be happy to walk you through how to use BARD Express.

### [Great Reads for the Family:](#)

[“Turbo Twenty-Three”](#) by Janet Evanovich:

*Larry Virgil has skipped out on his latest court date, after having been arrested for stealing a truck filled with bourbon. Luckily for bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, Larry is stupid enough to attempt the same exact crime...again! Only this time, he leaves behind a truck full of ice cream and a dead body—frozen solid and covered with chopped pecans. Ranger and Stephanie team up to go undercover and find out exactly what is going on in Trenton's hottest ice cream factory.*

General Adult. DB86177

[“A Gentleman in Moscow”](#) by Amor Towels

*In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to house arrest after deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by the Bolshevik tribunal. Rostov, a man of intelligence and wit that has never worked a day in his life,*

*now finds himself reduced to living in an attic while a Russian Civil War plays out on the streets below. In a story told with humor and a colorful cast of characters, the Count's journey to gaining a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose is one that leaves the reader wanting more.* General Adult. DB85533

[“Click Here to Start”](#) by Denis Markell:

*Twelve-year-old Ted has spent most of his summer playing video games. So when his great uncle dies and bequeaths him all the so-called treasure in his apartment, Ted only has a passing interest. To his shock, his great-uncle used his eccentric talents to create a one-of-a-kind escape the room game. With the help of his friends Isobel and Caleb, Ted quickly learns that the treasure his uncle left—gold and jewels from World War II— goes to the first person to beat this real-life video game. The only problem is that someone dangerous is hot on their heels.* Grades 5 & up. DB85470

### [We Need to Know From You:](#)

From time to time, you may find an additional sheet or page in the library's newsletter. This sheet will usually contain a survey that patrons can take either online or by filling out the sheet and mailing it back to the library. The sheet will be thicker than the rest so it will be easily identifiable. As with any service the library provides, the feedback of patrons is very important, so we ask that you take the time to fill out the survey. Your answers may help shape the library's future.

### [Regular Library Programming:](#)

The Technology User Group (TUG) meets on the second Saturday of each month between March and November. The meetings being promptly at 10:00 AM and usually last an hour. Topics and announcements are emailed, so please contact Jerry Price to be added to the list. He can be reached via email: [assistive.technology@maryland.gov](mailto:assistive.technology@maryland.gov).

### [College Is Year Round:](#)

The Maryland Accessible Textbook Program, created specifically to help print-impaired students in college gain access to educational materials, operates year round. This program, located within the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped building on Park Ave., in Baltimore,

and using technology that just a few years ago was out of reach to most Marylanders, the MAT team now has the ability to assist students in obtaining textbooks in a wide variety of formats: MP3, DTB, large print, or PDF so they can have the best possible chance at success. For more information, contact the Maryland Accessible Textbook program:

[accessible.textbook@maryland.gov](mailto:accessible.textbook@maryland.gov) or 410-230-2448

### Contact Us:

Library Telephone: Main: 410-230-2424 | Reference: 410-230-2443

Email: [Reference.desk@maryland.gov](mailto:Reference.desk@maryland.gov)

Address: 415 Park Ave., Baltimore, MD 21201

### Current Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Thursday	8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
Friday	8:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.
2nd Sat.	10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

*The library's newsletter is written by the Library for the Maryland State Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped staff. It is currently only available in large print. The information contained within the newsletter is meant to be entertainment and informational only.*