



MARYLAND STATE
LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER
ENOCH PRATT *free* LIBRARY



SLRC Public Program Catalog

400 Cathedral St. • Baltimore, MD 21201 • slrc.info

Rev. 3/12/2025. To schedule a session, please contact slrcprogramsandtraining@prattlibrary.org.

SLRC Public Programming Catalog

Table of Contents

African American History

[Critical Race Theory](#)

[Frederick Douglass: From Enslaved to Diplomat!](#)

[From Jazz to Hip-Hop](#)

[The Harlem Renaissance](#)

[Making a Difference: African American Women of the Civil Rights Movement](#)

Art and Creativity

[Copyright for Creators: Can I Use This?](#)

[How We Know What We See: How to "Read" a Dance](#)

[An Introduction to Visual Culture: Emojis, Memes, and Gifs](#)

[Learning about Art: Leonardo and Wolfgang Have Something to Say](#)

Business, Career, and Nonprofit

[Résumé Building and Interview Preparation](#)

Collectibles

[Antiques and Collectibles: Just the Basics, Please](#)

[Caring for Your Family Treasures](#)

[Heads or Tails? The Story of American Coins: Old and New](#)

Computers and Information Literacy

[Google Mostly](#)

[Photo Editing, Sharing and Storage](#)

Genealogy

[African American Genealogy: An Introduction](#)

[African American Genealogy: Beyond the Basics](#)

[American Military Records: Serving Your Research Needs](#)

[Beginning Genealogy Research](#)

[Researching Your Family History Using the Maryland State Library Resource Center](#)

[Save a Story: DIY Oral History](#)

[Using Land Records: Your Key to Unlock Family History Puzzles](#)

[Using Newspapers to Research Your Ancestors](#)

[Where to Find Maryland Genealogical Resources](#)

Health and Science

[Finding Health Information Online](#)

[Herbs in Disguise](#)

History & Law

[Anne Frank: Her Life, Her Diary, and Beyond](#)

[History of the Calendar](#)

[History of the Pyramids](#)

[The History of Shopping through the Sears Catalog](#)

[How to “Read” an Oral History](#)

[The Marx Brothers](#)

[National History Day Research](#)

[Public Legal Resources](#)

[Researching the History of a House](#)

[Uncovering Dirt: Stories Revealed](#)

[U.S. Propaganda Posters of World War One](#)

[U.S. Propaganda Posters of World War Two](#)

Humanities

[Religion in its Diversity](#)

[Religion: Introduction to the New Testament](#)

[Religion: Introduction to the Old Testament](#)

[What Makes a Classic?](#)

Maryland

[Andrew Carnegie’s Gift to Baltimore: EPFL’s Carnegie Branch Libraries](#)

[From Twilight into Sunshine: LGBTQ+ History in Maryland](#)

[Maryland Cooking: Cookbooks and Recipes from Maryland’s Past](#)

[Maryland Mayhem: Scoundrels, Spies, and Sinners in the Free State](#)

[Maryland on Vacation: Unwinding in the Free State, 1875-1952](#)

[Mediums, Magicians, and the Ouija Board: A Spiritualist History of Baltimore](#)

[The Shoulders We Stand On: Maryland Fights for Women’s Suffrage](#)

[What Do You Know About Maryland?](#)

Reader’s Advisory

[Fiction Book Discussion](#)

[Fiction Favorites](#)

[What Do I Read Next? Personalized Advice Session](#)

Special Collections

[Rare Books from Special Collections: Stella Nova and Beyond](#)

[The Life and Literary Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe](#)

Teens

Teen Reader's Advisory: It's Not Just About the Books!



African American History

Critical Race Theory

Join librarian Christine Iko as she teaches the major tenets of Critical Race Theory, highlights the core writings of Critical Race theory, introduces you to writers associated with the discipline, shows you where it is being banned by state legislatures, and helps you to make assessments of it when it is being discussed in the media.

Frederick Douglass: From Enslaved to Diplomat!

This program examines the life events of Frederick Douglass as his journey takes him from being an enslaved boy on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to one of the highest ranking African American men during the 19th century. Douglass' story is fascinating from how he learns to read and write to become an editor of two newspapers during the 19th century and how his talents and skills enabled him to become a United States diplomat, serving a country that once considered him chattel property.

From Jazz to Hip-Hop

Explore the origins and evolution of popular music forms that originated in the African American community. Discuss the social and cultural changes that impacted each genre's development and revisit the songs and artists who remain timeless influences.

The Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural and social movement in the 1920s and 1930s defined by an outpouring of African American literature, theater, music, and art. Discuss the origins of this historically significant time period and explore some of the many influential writers, poets, visual artists, and musicians. Gain reading, viewing, and listening recommendations and learn about the variety of resources on the Harlem Renaissance held in the library's collection.

Making a Difference:

African American Women of the Civil Rights Movement

Learn about African American women who were instrumental in shaping the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. Discuss the contributions of activists such as Ruby Dee, Angela Davis, Daisy Bates, and Ruby Bridges. Enjoy listening to lesser known stories and gain a greater appreciation for these individuals who at times receive little recognition in popular historical narratives but played a pivotal role in the struggle for civil rights.



Art and Creativity

Copyright for Creators: Can I Use This?

Have you ever wondered what pictures you're allowed to post on your blog or social media? Do you want to remix or reuse previously published material? This workshop will help you become more comfortable with these questions and give you the confidence to create and reuse material responsibly in your own creative works.

How We Know What We See: How to "Read" a Dance

You can watch a dance and enjoy it all right. But when you "read" a dance, when you know what you are seeing, you know what the dance is made of, where it comes from, what it says, and why you respond to the movement. We'll "read" a dance using the vocabulary of ballet and tap, choreography, and symbols. Come to watch dance embody the characters and articulate the plot. Watch how the director orchestrates dance, camerawork, music, and editing in a thriller set in the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The characters start as opposites: ballet star vs. tap dancer; perform competing solos; Soviet defector vs. American defector; but they must dance as partners to go on the run from the KGB. You'll gain dance and visual literacy, so you can know what you see and when you see a dance, why you enjoy a dance—or hate it.

An Introduction to Visual Culture: Emojis, Memes, and Gifs

Where do symbols come from? What is an emoji? A GIF? What is a meme, and how are they used? Learn internet abbreviations and the basics of visual culture in the digital age. A fun, informative introduction to communicating through the medium of the internet!

Learning about Art: Leonardo and Wolfgang Have Something to Say

Have you ever stopped to think about what the arts are and what they do? Did you know that, while beautiful objects have been made by every culture in every time, the concept of art is really modern and western? What are the essential skills of artists and composers? What processes do they follow to create their art and what will make it succeed? We'll discuss these topics, and also take a look at the incredible fine arts and music resources available through the online and print collections of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, State Library Resource Center.



Business, Career, and Nonprofit

Résumé Building and Interview Preparation

Learn how to create a basic résumé and cover letter. Discuss how to best organize your education and work experience and the value of functional and chronological résumés. Discover useful online resources such as occupational databases, templates, and résumé builders that can help you in the writing process.

Collectibles

Antiques and Collectibles: Just the Basics, Please

Collecting is a popular and fascinating hobby. In this presentation we'll look at aspects of collecting that anyone new to the field will want to know, including a bit about the history of collecting in the U.S., some useful basic terminology, common types of evaluation for antiques and collectible items, and criteria that are commonly used to assess their value. We'll also talk about collecting tips from the experts and find out about valuable resources for your collecting education, both online and through the collections of the State Library Resource Center.

Caring for Your Family Treasures

Learn to preserve and protect your family's rare books, scrapbooks, photographs, and other personal treasures. Discuss where to store items, what boxes and other storage options are best, and what environments and other factors are most damaging to your materials. Gain the knowledge to ensure your family treasures last for years to come.

Heads or Tails? The Story of American Coins: Old and New

A historical introduction to American coinage from colonial times to the present day. Explore early American currencies, including coins from the thirteen colonies; discover the history of the silver dollar; and examine modern day coinage. This program is suited for both numismatic enthusiasts and beginners.





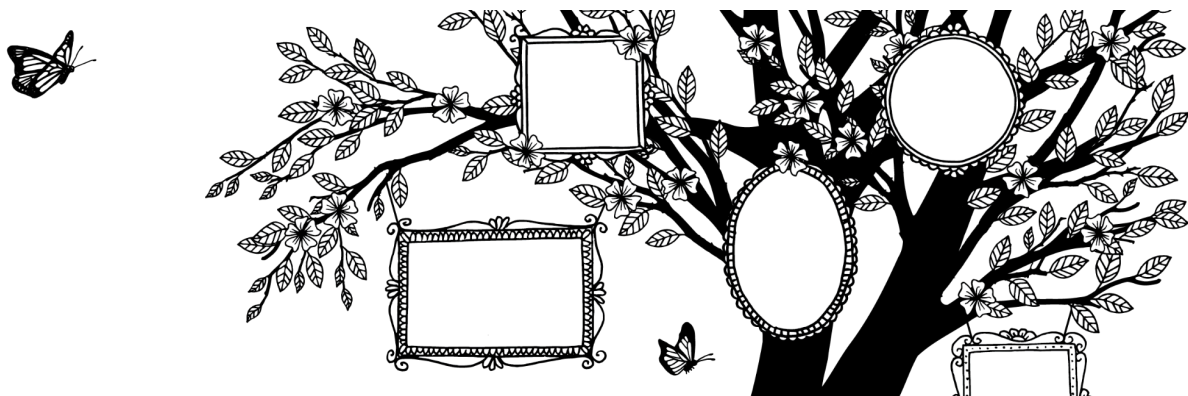
Computers and Information Literacy

Google Mostly

Explore how to best use Google and other online services and resources. Gain a basic understanding of how Google and other search engines work. Learn basic strategies for online searching, with a special emphasis on Google's advanced search features. Review when search strategies should include search engines vs. databases, library guides, directories, and other resources.

Photo Editing, Sharing and Storage

Want to learn a few basics about how to manipulate and manage your digital photos using free online software? Explore how to save and upload your photos, make basic enhancements using Pixlr and other free software, and share photos with family and friends through Flickr and other sites. Enjoy learning how to preserve and enhance what you capture with your camera.



Genealogy

African American Genealogy: An Introduction

Interested in learning how to research your African American family history? Learn tips for how and where to begin your research. Explore several popular online genealogy sites and discuss a variety of books, databases, and other resources available through the library.

African American Genealogy: Beyond the Basics

Designed for genealogists with experience, this session will dig deeper into resources of interest for individuals researching African American genealogy. We'll explore the library's digital resources, popular genealogy databases such as Ancestry.com, independent record repositories such as the Freedmen's Bureau, and federal and state government websites. We'll also discuss how slave narratives, census records, historical photographs, and other rich sources of information provide the broader context and specific details relating to African American family histories.

American Military Records: Serving Your Research Needs

Tracing the life of an ancestor who served in the military can be challenging and military records can provide a wealth of information if you know where to look. Learn how to determine whether or not your ancestor served, the types of records available, what you can find in them, and where to find them—both online and in print. Whether you are new to military records, or have been researching them for years, come join us as we explore the potential of military records in genealogy.

Beginning Genealogy Research

Genealogy's popularity has increased significantly over the past several years, with new devotees gaining an introduction through shows like *Genealogy Roadshow*, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, and *Finding Your Roots*. Are you interested in joining this ever-growing community of researchers? Join us as we talk about the first steps you should consider taking to begin researching your ancestors, look at resources you can use—both online and in print, and discuss institutions you should consider planning to visit. Whether you're still thinking about diving into family history research, or you want to sharpen your skills, this program is for you.

Rev. 3/12/2025. To schedule a session, please contact slrcprogramsandtraining@prattlibrary.org.

Researching Your Family History Using the Maryland State Library Resource Center

Find out how the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland State Library Resource Center's collection and resources can assist you in researching your ancestors. Topics include the types of materials available in the Library's collection, how to access these materials, how our librarian subject specialists can help, how you can prepare for your visit, and much more.

Save a Story: DIY Oral History

Save a Story! DIY Oral History Interviewing trains everyone to take an oral history--from start to finish. From how to plan an interview to how to record an interview using equipment like your cellphone or the web (or Oral History Kits borrowed from Pratt), we'll talk you through the process. You will watch interviews of the famous, under-recognized, and unfamiliar to learn effective and ineffective ways to save history.

Using Land Records: Your Key to Unlock Family History Puzzles

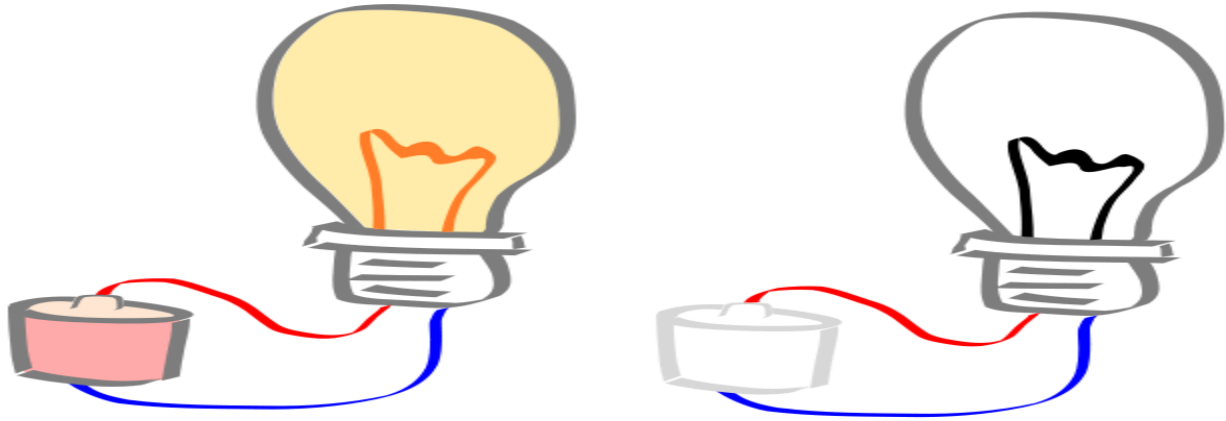
Family history researchers use land records for many different aspects of their research. They can help you to find or prove relationships between ancestors, break through brick walls, or even to make it possible to find and visit an ancestor's house or property. In this program, we'll discuss how you can find and use this important resource.

Using Newspapers to Research Your Ancestors

We find more than just obituaries when researching ancestors in newspapers. They're a great tool for discovering details about how our ancestors lived, worked and played. They fill gaps in our ancestors' lives by providing the day-to-day events of communities, both small and large. Librarians from both the Maryland Department and the Periodicals Department will introduce the types of information you will find in newspapers to help you flesh out the story of your ancestors. Online, database, and microfilm newspaper collections will be discussed.

Where to Find Maryland Genealogical Resources

Do you have ancestors who lived in The Old Line State? As one of the first thirteen states in the U.S., Maryland has a long history filled with fantastic resources for researching our ancestors. At this program, genealogists will learn which institutions and collections they can visit to find the records and information they need for their research, including online resources as well as those only found in local institutions.



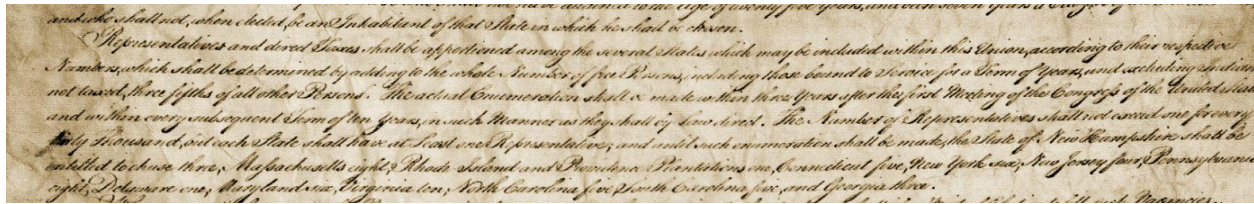
Health and Science

Finding Health Information Online

This program will explore how to find reliable health and medical information on the internet, focusing on trusted consumer health websites.

Herbs in Disguise

You see them everywhere, but is a weed just a weed? What do they have in common with herbs? Learn about their variety, beauty, origins and uses that may surprise you.



History & Law

Anne Frank: Her Life, Her Diary, and Beyond

Anne Frank is possibly the most well-known victim of the Holocaust with millions of people around the world aware of her life in hiding through her diary. Not as well-known is the story of her early life, from her birth in Frankfurt, through her family's migration to Amsterdam, to the Nazi invasion of the Netherlands, as well as the time after her arrest and the fates of the people she hid with. This program will fill in those pieces and tell the story of the diary itself after the war and its impact on the world.

History of the Calendar

An overview of how the length of days, months, and years were discovered; the origins of the names of the days and months of the year; and alternative calendrical systems throughout human history.

History of the Pyramids

An overview of the purpose of the Egyptian pyramids, how they were built, their symbolism within ancient Egyptian religion, and a broad chronology of their construction through various dynasties.

The History of Shopping Through the Sears Catalog

Take a trip down memory lane and explore the library's retrospective collection of Sears catalogs. Beginning with issues from the 1930s, view how clothing, furniture, appliances, toys (and the value of the dollar) have changed through the decades. Observe historical trends in marketing and other aspects of business innovation, and gain an appreciation for these artifacts that function as fascinating mirrors of our times.

How to "Read" an Oral History

How We Know What We See (& Hear) explores oral history as an immediate, detailed, intimate historical document to be analyzed and interpreted for its evidence of personal, family, community, national, even world history. You'll be shown interview recordings of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, comedian Richard Pryor, and a little-known father and daughter. You'll be introduced to the visual and technical vocabulary of oral history production. With skills to "read" oral history, you'll be able to assess the value of their evidence and gain primary source literacy.

The Marx Brothers

The Marx Brothers were some of the biggest movie stars of the 1930s and '40s. This program takes you through their beginnings on the Vaudeville circuit through their years as a comedy group that sang on Broadway and in film and on to their post-group careers. View clips of some of their best scenes and discuss the Marx Brothers' influence on society.

National History Day Research

Are you searching for resources and strategies to support your National History Day project? This program gives guidance on how to choose a topic that matches the annual theme, develop a thesis, find primary and secondary sources, and to ultimately decide which type of project you'll produce for National History Day.

Public Legal Resources

Find out how the law is made, who represents you, and where to find the law as it applies to you. This program introduces a brief overview of how federal and state law is organized and how to go about starting any legal research you might need to do. The program also offers a brief overview of the Maryland Court System with particular attention paid to forms, where to find the help you need and low to no cost legal aid resources available throughout the state. We briefly touch on popular legal topics such as voter registration, tracking legislation, self-representation and how to prepare for court.

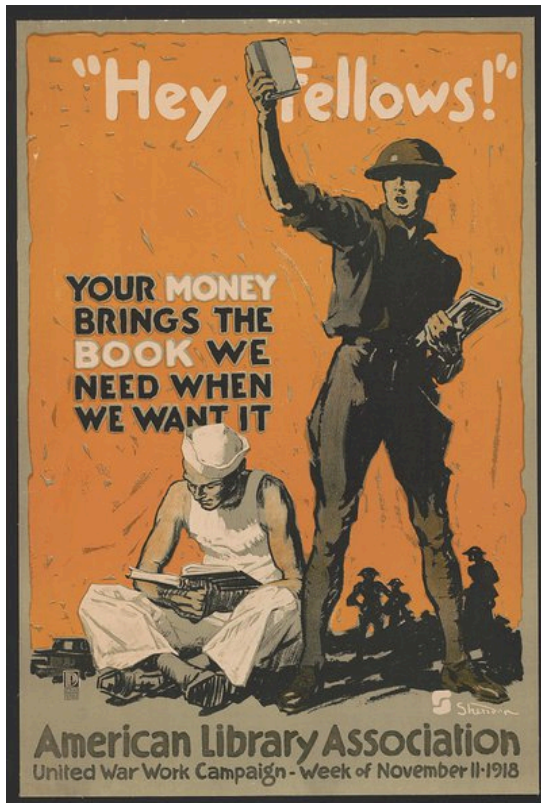
This is a PowerPoint presentation lasting around 1 hour with handouts. This program can be customized according to interest and location.

Researching the History of a House

Unless you are the first to live in your house, you've probably at some point wondered who else cooked in your kitchen, when your roof was last replaced, or what that strange door that leads to nothing was originally used for. Just because your house isn't a famous landmark, doesn't mean it doesn't have a rich history. Researching the history of your home can be an exciting trip into the lives of those who came before you. It can also tell you how the house was built and give you clues as to how it should be maintained. In this program, we will talk about where to find government records related to your home, how to research historical archives for information, and what to look for in your house itself for clues.

Uncovering Dirt: Stories Revealed

Learn how to support your customers' research into the "dirt" that is historical evidence. We will identify online primary sources in repositories such as public libraries, special collections, and archives around the world. We'll discuss promoting primary source literacy for customers through guidance on the perspective and "truth" of a source, and discuss the purpose of secondary sources in providing context. You'll be able to explore the who, what, where, when, and why of different historical events through practice questions to provide successful research support.



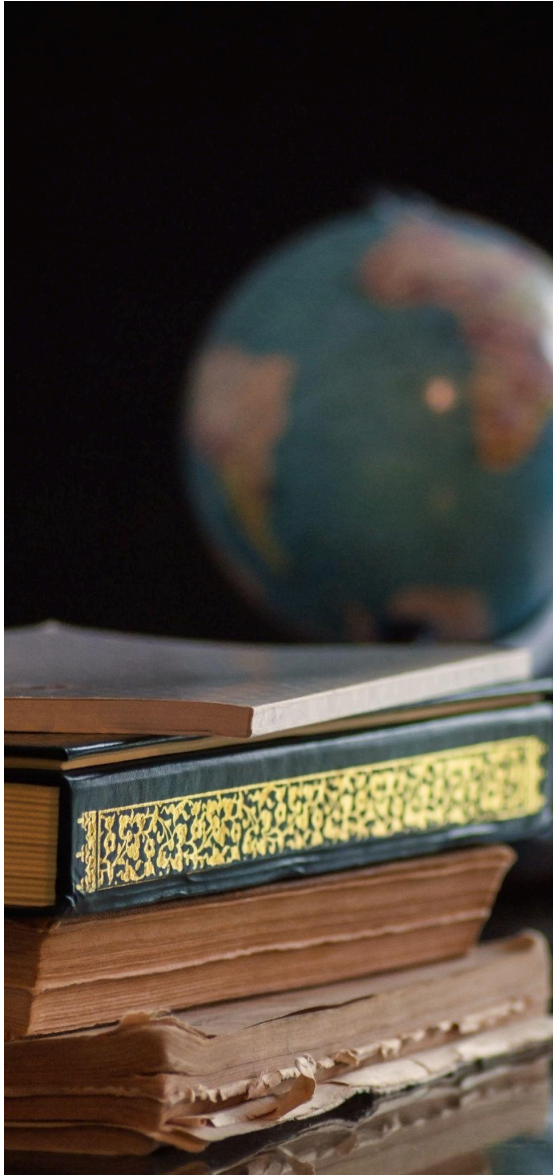
U.S. Propaganda Posters of World War One

Find out about the work of the Division of Pictorial Publicity of the Committee for Public Information in World War 1. We'll review posters designed for recruiting, as well as those designed to manage resources on the home front, to encourage gardening, and to involve people in non-military roles. We'll find out why these posters were produced, who the artists were, which images have persisted, and why "Liberty" began to take over from "Columbia" as the embodiment of the spirit of the Nation.

U.S. Propaganda Posters of World War Two

The Federal Government's Office of War Information began its work in June 1942. Review examples of the six types of poster published and approved by the OWI. Learn about some of the artists, consider contemporary versions of Uncle Sam and Liberty, find out about Rosie the Riveter, and examine Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms. We'll also look specifically at posters aimed at women, and discuss the changes in the style of war posters since 1918, as the advertising industry moved beyond the style of images prepared by artists and illustrators during World War One.

Humanities



Religion in its Diversity

The topic of religion has long generated vigorous debate. Gain a deeper understanding of world religions through a guided exploration of each faith's basic tenets. Examine sacred texts including The Hebrew Bible, The New Testament, the Qur'an, and various Far-East Scriptures. Discover books and other resources from the library's Humanities Department collection that offer useful insight into this challenging subject area.

Religion: Introduction to the New Testament

General Introduction of holy scriptures; Historical background of the New Testament; The formation and the subdivisions

Religion: Introduction to the Old Testament

General Introduction of holy scriptures; General Introduction to the Hebrew Bible; Subdivision and its main content.

What Makes a Classic?

What is a literary classic, and who decides? How has our understanding of the classics changed through the years? Explore challenges to the traditional Western canon and theories about why works such as *The Odyssey*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Beloved* keep calling readers back.



Maryland

Andrew Carnegie's Gift to Baltimore: EPFL's Carnegie Branch Libraries

Learn about businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who was inspired by Baltimore's Enoch Pratt to build over a thousand public libraries across America. Told in the context of library history, architectural history, and Baltimore's growth, this program showcases original photographs of Pratt's fourteen neighborhood branches built with Carnegie funds.

From Twilight into Sunshine: LGBTQ+ History in Maryland

Before language existed to identify persons whose gender expression and/or sexuality were non-conforming, nineteenth and early twentieth century local newspapers offered tantalizing clues that all was not straight and narrow. A few decades later, the 1930s previewed the openness of recent times before giving way to a darker, more perilous era for LGBTQ+ people in the 1950s. After reviewing these twilight years, this program will look at the beginnings of the current movement toward LGBTQ+ visibility and rights. The program — a collaboration between Enoch Pratt Free Library Librarians and Baltimore Heritage LGBTQ+ History Walking Tour Guides — can be tailored to inform local audiences about the LGBTQ+ history of their region and can also include material about LGBTQ+ life in Baltimore.

Maryland Cooking: Cookbooks and Recipes from Maryland's Past

Curious about the origins of Smith Island Cake, crab soup, and Maryland fried chicken? The Maryland Department has a small but historically significant collection of Maryland cookbooks, one dating back as far as 1845. We will explore the collection in historical and cultural context, and search for early examples of your favorite Maryland recipes. We will also discuss blogs about the history of cooking, digital collections of historic cookbooks, and other online resources. Whether you are searching for that elusive recipe or you're just interested in local history, the State Library Resource Center will help you savor Maryland's culinary past.

Maryland Mayhem: Scoundrels, Spies, and Sinners in the Free State

Maybe you've heard of some of Maryland's most notorious crimes, such as the conspiracy to assassinate Abraham Lincoln or the murder of Sister Cathy, subject of the popular Netflix series, *The Keepers*. But what about some of its lesser-known misdeeds? And maybe you've heard some things about the Alger Hiss espionage case, but not that many of its scenes actually played out in Baltimore and other parts of Maryland. Join us for a discussion of some of these shady characters and unfortunate episodes. You'll hear about the only known case of burking in North America. You'll find out about a promising career in public service dashed on the rocks of family annihilation and about a nineteenth-century "friendship" gone awry.

Maryland on Vacation: Unwinding in the Free State, 1875-1952

When did Marylanders start taking vacations? Where did they go? How did they get there? Using postcards, steamboat & train schedules, resort brochures, and photographs, this program explores how Marylanders from diverse racial and social backgrounds began to take breaks from work routines. The program also examines the social mores that shaped vacations for Marylanders.

Mediums, Magicians, and the Ouija Board:

A Spiritualist History of Baltimore

Do spirits return, and can we communicate with the dead? Baltimore's Spiritualists thought so, but magicians worked to disprove them. Learn about spirit mediums, the Ouija Board, and Baltimore's group of amateur magicians, the Demons Club.

The Shoulders We Stand On: Maryland Fights for Women's Suffrage

The Shoulders We Stand On documents the efforts to achieve the right of women to vote in Maryland and the United States. The program shows the teamwork, strategy, and some of the conflicts within the movement to gain popular support for voter rights.

The relevance of the suffragists' efforts and the right to vote—for both women and men—to today will be explored using the unique artifacts and photographs from Pratt Library Special Collections Woman Suffrage Collection.

What Do You Know About Maryland?

Think you know everything there is to know about Maryland? Eager to learn more? Come join us for a fun, trivia-style program, where you can test your knowledge of Marylandia, while learning about the people, places, and things that make this state great.

Reader's Advisory



Fiction Book Discussion

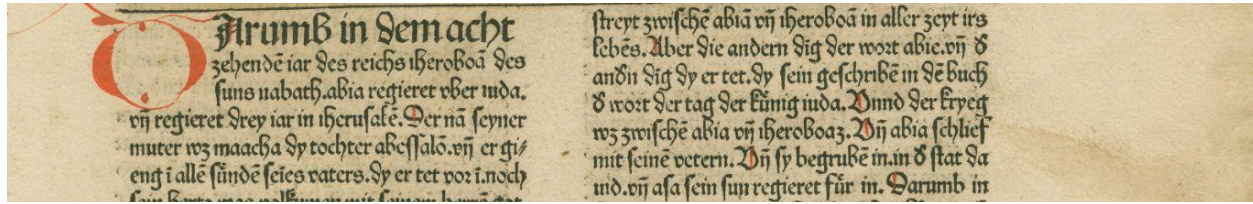
Foster friendships and promote reading. Schedule a book discussion and have one of our experienced Fiction librarians lead it. We're up for novels or short stories: your choice or our recommendation.

Fiction Favorites

Would you enjoy an overview of beloved adult fiction titles that belong to a particular genre or reflect a particular community? How about a more wide-ranging selection of recent releases? The choice is yours--we will tailor the presentation to meet your preferences. Come away with loads of ideas for future reads!

What Do I Read Next? Personalized Advice Session

People make time to get advice on their marriages and exercise routines, so why not on their reading? For a scheduled block of time, our librarians are at your service! Tell us the last two books you enjoyed and we'll suggest your next great read.



Special Collections

Rare Books from Special Collections: Stella Nova and Beyond

What makes a book rare? What makes a book valuable? How do books work? These questions and more will be answered as we look at a series of rare books representing different eras from our library. Join us as we explore the stories told by some of our favorite books in the collection.

The Life and Literary Legacy of Edgar Allan Poe

Experience the mysterious life and literary legacy of Edgar Allan Poe through the Enoch Pratt Free Library's collections. Learn about Poe's personal life and family, his writings, and his mysterious death in Baltimore in 1849. View unique artifacts from Poe's life including manuscripts, letters, and personal items from the Library's collections.



Teens

Teen Reader's Advisory: It's Not Just About the Books!

Learn tips and tricks to provide great reader's advisory to teens even when they "hate reading," and/or it's their parent/guardian asking for them! Tools including the "10 Books in 10 Minutes" book-talk, the right questions to ask (and not to ask), body language, and genre topics are discussed.