



The Baltimore Bibliophiles

A Literary Miscellany 1-25-2026

Binnie Syril Braunstein, Editor

Calendar of Events for 2026

Please note: Per request of one of our members,
descriptions of newly updated calendar events are highlighted in **bold**.

January, 29, 2026

Cats on Parchment

Walters Art Museum

Tour Guide: Dr. Lynley Herbert

Weather permitting.

Sunday, February 15

Valentine's Weekend Meet & Greet/Show & Tell

Tom Stosur's condo The Anchorage Tower

12:30-1:30-Board meeting

2:00-4:00-Meet & Greet/Show&Tell/Treats & chocolate!

Parking details attached.

Thursday, March 19. ZOOM

Reid Byers

Collecting the Imaginary and the 1840 Fortsas Affair (literary hoax)

7:00 pm

April, 2025

Charles Tharp on unique items in George Washington's Library at Mt. Vernon

Date TBD

Tuesday, May 2026 ZOOM

Margaret Stetz, and Robert Carter Professor of Women's Studies and Professor of Humanities at the University of Delaware.

Picture Books: How We Learn to Value Print and Love Libraries.

7:00 pm

Saturday, June 6, 2026
Casey Smith , Executive Director, Frederick Book Arts Center
Frederick Book Arts Centre field trip
Time/parking details to be provided.

Saturday, July, 2026
Olya Samilenko's house
Meet& Greet>Show & Tell/Board Meeting
Date/Time/Parking details to be provided.

September
Baltimore Museum of Art Library
Lunch at Gertrude's
Date/Time/Parking details to be provided.

October, 2026
Chris Needham
“Library Ghosts: The Afterlives of Vanished Collections.”
Date/Time/Place/Parking details to be provided.

November, 2026
Annual Meeting
Elisabeth Long , Dean, Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University
Artist’s Books
Date/Time/Place/Parking details to be provided.

Spotlight on our new webpage!
www.baltimorebibliophiles.org

Congratulations to (former) Bibs member **Clare Imholtz** on **Alice on Stage: The Savile Clarke Letters.** University of Virginia Press, Publication of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America.
<https://www.lewiscarroll.org/?s=Clare+imholtz>

News & Notes from Here and There...

Kelmscott Bookshop: January/February 2026 Newsletter: Sale on Travel & Exploration Books | Featured Books on Race/Gender/Discrimination| New Arrivals
Happy New Year to everyone. We made it through 2025, with a lot of bumps (and some larger hills) presenting many challenges for all of us. We hope that by the end of 2026 we will be able to look back more favorably, and that the lives and budgets of librarians and book specialists will return to

normality. To help start the year, The Kelmscott Bookshop is having a January and February sale on books about Travel & Exploration. Many of these books that are priced at \$100 or less will be 50% off through the end of February. Some items that are more than \$100 will also be on sale for 20% off. You can see a full list of our sale items by visiting our [sale page](#). Please note that our sale excludes new arrivals, items sold on consignment, and private press items.

In recognition of Martin Luther King's birthday and Black History Month, our Featured section includes a number of titles addressing issues of race, gender, and discrimination.

As usual, we also highlight a number of our new arrivals for the month. Several are described below in the New Arrivals section, and you can view all 200 titles by visiting our [New Arrivals Page](#).

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/January-February-2026-Newsletter--Sale-on-Travel---Exploration-Books---Featured-Books-on-Race-Gender-Discrimination--New-Arrival.html?soid=1103337706551&aid=zMASfB5NJLI>

Kelmscott Bookshop: Addendum To Kelmscott's Books on Race/Gender/Discrimination. Upon a broader search of our database, we have identified a number of other titles that should be featured in our list of books addressing issues of race, gender, and discrimination. Our newsletter that was distributed on Monday, January 12, contained a section featuring other relevant titles. This was in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and of the upcoming Black History Month.

Of particular note in this addendum is KCALB, by noted book artist, Claire Jeanine Satin. The book is an homage to civil rights leader John Lewis, who marched with King at the Pettus Bridge, and who subsequently served a long career as a US congressman.

Other titles address women's equality, civil rights, and communities that have faced discrimination.

We hope that you will appreciate the excellent works presented in this addendum.

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Addendum-To-Kelmscott-s-Books-on-Race-Gender-Discrimination-.html?soid=1103337706551&aid=WzGL2RVe-Ec>

Library of Congress Bibliomania: Old Saint Nick: Santa Claus in 19th Century American Print. Posted by Patrick Hastings.

<https://blogs.loc.gov/bibliomania/2025/12/22/old-saint-nick-santa-claus-in-19th-century-america-print/?loclr=eabib>

Smithsonian Magazine: Trinity College Dublin's Old Library will close for restoration and construction in 2027. What does that mean for the medieval manuscripts and books housed there?

<https://search.app/wYXB>

Archaeology News Online Magazine: A new study suggests the mysterious Voynich Manuscript may be a medieval cipher.

<https://search.app/RCcDL>

JHU Libraries & Museums: New research software network, #MSEMonday, exhibition insights, and more. January 2026.

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/subject.html?soid=1119840455039&aid=jjiqk4GqfV0>

Sotheby's: A Guide to Identifying Harry Potter First Editions | Books & Manuscripts. By Noah Goldrach.

<https://www.sothbys.com/en/articles/a-guide-to-identifying-harry-potter-first-editions>

Sotheby's: How to tell if your Harry Potter Book is Valuable. By Noah Goldrach.

<https://www.sothbys.com/en/articles/how-to-tell-if-your-harry-potter-book-is-valuable>

ExLibris: Fire damages Mississippi's largest synagogue, destroying library.

Posted by Farley P. Katz,

From Mississippi Today-

"A fire heavily damaged Mississippi's largest synagogue before dawn Saturday – the same house of worship in northeast Jackson that the Ku Klux Klan bombed in 1967 because the rabbi supported civil rights."

...

"The library and administrative offices of Jackson's only synagogue were reduced to charred ruins. Two Torahs were destroyed and five were damaged in the flames that erupted during Shabbat, the weekly Jewish day of rest, according to temple leaders. One Torah that survived the Holocaust was in a glass case and was undamaged in the fire."

Suspect arrested.

Full article at <https://mississippitoday.org/2026/01/10/fire-damages-mississippi-largest-synagog>

ZME Science: Scholars Found a Lost Medieval Masterpiece Sitting on a Shelf in a British School Library. By Tudor Tarita.

<https://search.app/nDPbe>

Smithsonian Magazine: A Cat Left Paw Prints on the Pages of This Medieval Manuscript When the Ink Was Drying 500 Years Ago.

An exhibition called "Paws on Parchment" tracks how cats were depicted in the Middle Ages through texts and artworks from around the world—including one example of a 15th-century "keyboard cat."

<https://share.google/KHzo1sSxMOKSI5vxJ>

Library of Congress Bibliomania: Polar Plunge: An Exploration of Antarctic Publishing. Posted by Callie Beattie.

<https://blogs.loc.gov/bibliomania/2026/01/14/polar-plunge-an-exploration-of-antarctic-publishing/?loclr=eabib>

Smithsonian Magazine: You Can See a Swirling Sculpture Made of 8,000 Books at a Library in Prague. By Christian Thorsberg. (Suggested by Tom Stosur)
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/you-can-see-a-swirling-sculpture-made-of-8000-books-at-a-library-in-prague-180988006/>
[https://www.smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&lctg=92710841](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/you-can-see-a-swirling-sculpture-made-of-8000-books-at-a-library-in-prague-180988006/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorial&lctg=92710841)
<https://www.sothbys.com/en/articles/how-to-tell-if-your-harry-potter-book-is-valuable>

Smithsonian Magazine: Oscar Wilde's Portraits, Poems, Letters and Manuscripts Head to Auction 125 Years After His Death. Other rare items, available for purchase in February, include illustrations, theater programs, telegrams and newspapers. By Christian Thorsberg. (Suggested by Tom Stosur)
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/oscar-wildes-portraits-poems-letters-and-manuscripts-head-to-auction-125-years-after-his-death-180988023/>

Country Life: A mesmerising portrait in the eerie country house that inspired Charlotte Brontë to write 'Jane Eyre' By John Goodall.
<https://share.google/CSSc4FiKBnGwnpbd4>

Library of Congress: Bibliomania: Behind the Rabbit: A Short Tale. Posted by Marianna Stell.
<https://blogs.loc.gov/bibliomania/2026/01/22/behind-the-rabbit-a-short-tale/?loclr=eabib>

*****Time Sensitive!*****

Historical Society of Baltimore County: Historical Society of Baltimore County Presents *Two Lectures in One Program*. (Suggested by Nancy Magnuson.)
Paper Making in Baltimore County 1775-1850 by Carlton Seitz
&
Printing Books on a Hand Press by Stephen Heaver
Sunday, March 8, from 2 to 3:30 pm
Click on the link below for information on registration.
<https://mailchi.mp/2a79db31d2d9/mar8-paper-making-and-book-printing?e=6c012acd6>

*To join The Baltimore Bibliophiles, please visit our new webpage:
www.baltimorebibliophiles.org and click on "Join."*