

THE BALTIMORE SUN

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Folks danced under the big top at the "Night Circus" themed Harford County Public Library Gala, held in the Abingdon branch.

BALTIMORE SCENE BY SLOANE
SPONSORED BY **GBMC** ATLAS

Packed in the stacks

The stacks were packed at the 20th Annual Harford County Public

Library Gala. Some 600 folks filled the Abingdon library

branch for the shindig, whose theme is always based on a book. This year, the chosen tome: Erin Morgenstern's "Night Circus" – inspired a Victorian circus theme, Cirque de Magie. A juggler, stilt walker, magicians and fortune tellers were scattered throughout and a "big top" hung over the dance floor.



Sloane Brown
Baltimore Scene by Sloane

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INSIDE
Female empowerment

Women to Watch event celebrated the leaders, diversity and visionaries shaping our region at the BMA. Page 3



Above: A circus juggler was among the "Night Circus" themed attractions.



Left: The gala featured several activities, including a tarot card reader. **SLOANE BROWN PHOTOS**



Harford County Public Library colleagues, from left, Mary Hastler, CEO, Dr. William Allen, board chair, and Amber Shrodes, director of philanthropy and community engagement.



Brian Lipford, from left, Key Technologies retired co-owner, Sharon Lipford, CopperMile Consulting owner/Harford County Public Library Foundation board president, Phil Smith, Cargill sales advisor, and Barry Glassman, former Harford County Executive.



Adam Gay, from left, US government lead IT specialist, Jessica Gay, Integrity Advantage owner, and Julie Ayler and Joe Ayler, Tar Heel Construction Group co-owners.

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“It’s our 20th gala, so we pulled out all the stops,” said Amber Shrodes, the library’s director of philanthropy and community engagement. “We started it as a thank you to our community and we’ve made it a party that everybody wants to come to,” said Mary Hastler, library CEO.

“We make it so much fun that people are already saving the date for next year,” she said, with a laugh. That date, by the way? Nov. 1, 2025.



A live auction was featured in the “center ring” at the “Night Circus” themed Harford County Public Library Gala. **SLOANE BROWN PHOTOS**

SCENE AHEAD

Thursday, Nov. 14: Young Vic Theatre presents “Trial by Jury,” (show & reception) benefits Baltimore Bar Foundation Congregation Beth El, 8101 Park Heights Ave. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$50 baltimorebar.org/calendar/

Friday, Nov. 15: ShareBaby 10th Anniversary Celebration M&T Bank Exchange at the Hippodrome, 401 W. Fayette St. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets: \$350 sharebaby.org/

Saturday, Nov. 16: Corneatopia: Eyes on the Future, benefits Keralink International Maryland Science Center, 601 Light St. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets: \$200 keralink.org/events/corneatopia



Eric McLaughlin, from left, PK Law partner, Grace Lohr, circus performer, Cheryl McComas, community volunteer, and Howard McComas IV, McComas Family Funeral Homes president.



Silvana Bowker, from left, Harford County deputy health officer/Harford County Public Library board member, Chad Bowker, US Department of the Army business chief, Justin Harbin, Harford County Public Schools English teacher, and Rachel Harbin, Service Coordination vice president/Harford County Public Library board member.



John Mettee IV, from left, Frederick Ward Associates senior vice president, Jamila Mettee, Frederick Ward Associates accounting/human resources manager, and Angel Windsor and Bobby Windson, Nature's Care and Wellness/The Local co-owners.



Jennifer Vido, from left, Harford County Bar Foundation executive director, and Durbin Vido, Brown Advisory client advisor/Harford County Public Library board member.



Bridget Forney, from left, Profiles senior vice president, Steve Ryan, program manager, Jennifer Kee, Kiddie Academy director of public relations, and Mike Kee, Campbell and Company director of technology.



The Abingdon branch library served as party central for the 20th Annual Harford County Public Library Gala.



Heather Johnson, from left, Harford County Public Schools kindergarten teacher, Keva "The Bow Tie Jeweler" Johnson, Rockwell Jewelers owner, and Sandy Tucker and Jazz Tucker, Island Spice co-CEO's.



Hillary Tayson, from left, Coffee Coffee owner, and Lee Tayson, Comparison Insurance Agency account executive/Harford County Public Library Foundation board member.



Liza Gill, from left, Bel Air-based therapist, Whitney Nechay, federal fraud investigator, and Sarah Shaw, EA Engineering director of subcontracts.



Tom Evans, from left, retired pharmacist, Carolyn Evan, DiPaula Law attorney, Mary Ann Bogarty, Jarrettsville Federal chief lending officer, and Dan Bogarty, Fallston Liquors owner.