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Literary Season Launches

Important new books and conversations with authors headline the Library's winter literary season, which began this week.

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The retired senior cataloger is remembered by colleagues for her analytical mind, wide-ranging interests and calm, gentle approach to life.

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Hank Aaron (clockwise from top left), Dorothy Height, John Lewis and Jessye Norman are among thousands of Black Americans whose interviews are available in The HistoryMakers archive at the Library.

The HistoryMakers

Library Preserves, Expands Access to Oral Histories

The HistoryMakers archive tells a story of African American achievement and perseverance.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Some of the 3,000-plus interview subjects are household names – Barack Obama, Hank Aaron, Whoopi Goldberg. Others are less well known. Yet, collectively, their first-person accounts bring to light nearly a century of African American achievements and struggles that were not fully documented until The HistoryMakers project began gathering stories in 2000.

Fourteen years later, Julieanna Richardson, The HistoryMakers' founder and president, donated thousands of hours of video-taped interviews to the Library, selected as the permanent repository for the still-growing archive.

Since then, the Library's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC) has preserved that original donation along with interviews subsequently deposited.

In the process, the center's Moving Image Section has refined its digital-preservation workflow – The HistoryMakers was NAVCC's first acquired born-digital collection – and extended the archive's reach by making the interviews more discoverable at the Library and beyond.

"Undoubtedly, these oral histories represent one of the most significant collections since the WPA collection of slave narratives, also

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NOTICES

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at lidav@loc.gov.

Muriel Bellamy
Paul Sayers

Eric Wolfson

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results associated with COVID-19. On Feb. 11, HSD announced that it had received four new reports of symptoms of COVID-19 or confirmed cases since its previous COVID-19 announcement on Feb. 4. Most employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed with COVID-19, but, out of caution, the Library is monitoring all reports of symptoms.

HSD is communicating with all staff members who become ill. In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD is also notifying their close work contacts and cleaning and disinfecting the areas affected.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdtV5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdtVQ> (public-facing staff webpage)

KLUGE STAFF FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS INVITED

The John W. Kluge Center staff fellowship annually provides up to two highly qualified Library staff members the chance to conduct independent research using the Library's resources and collections. Fellows join influential senior scholars and promising national and international postdoctoral researchers in residency at the center. The application deadline is April 1.

For more information and to apply, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xsxxv>.

Questions? Contact Michael Stratmoen at mist@loc.gov

ZOOM FOR GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) launched the Zoom for Government application for all Library users last weekend. It has enhanced security features not available in the free or commercially available versions of Zoom and will replace Webex as the application for hosting virtual meetings and webinars with external audiences. The Library's Skype application will remain available for internal meetings.

More information: <https://go.usa.gov/xs4tb>

Questions? Contact the OCIO service desk at (202) 707-7727 or ocioservice@loc.gov.

GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the March 5 Gazette is Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

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Winter Literary Season Features Children’s Books, Biography, History



Daniel Nayeri (clockwise from top left), Kacen Callender, Traci Chee and Robin Ha will participate in a March 12 symposium on diversity in children’s literature.

Yesterday, the winter literary season launched with a program titled “Giants of Racial Justice,” exploring the activism of Malcolm X and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The season continues with the following events, all of which will take place virtually and premiere on the Library’s Facebook page (<http://bit.ly/33v6Yoo>) and YouTube site (<http://bit.ly/2KJHrB9>). The presentations will be viewable afterward on those sites and the Library’s website (<https://go.usa.gov/xsYja>).

Jason Reynolds
Feb. 25, 4 p.m.

“On the Road with Jason Reynolds” will feature a conversation between the national ambassador for young people’s literature and Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden about Reynold’s term as ambassador, including his visits to rural and underserved schools across the country.

Diversity in Children’s Lit
March 12, 1 p.m.

The 2021 Diversity in Children’s Literature Symposium, “Listening, Learning, Creating Com-

munities,” will bring together a panel of children’s authors (Traci Chee, Robin Ha, Daniel Nayeri and Kacen Callender) in discussion with award-winning librarian and educator Deborah D. Taylor. The symposium will be followed by the presentation of the Walter Dean Myers Awards for Outstanding Children’s Literature.

Eleanor Roosevelt
March 18, 7 p.m.

David Michaelis will discuss his new book, “Rediscovering Eleanor Roosevelt,” which he researched at the Library. The event is the first in a new series called “Made at the Library,” which focuses on books that have been written substantially using the Library’s collections.

American Soldier in Combat
March 25, 7 p.m.

“War, Combat and the American Soldier” will feature two of the most prominent historians of war, Margaret MacMillan and Rick Atkinson, in conversation with philanthropist David M. Rubenstein. The event is part of the National Book Festival Presents series. ■

Library Surpasses CFC Fundraising Goal

Library staff pledged \$334,731 in monetary contributions and \$9,300 worth of volunteer hours during the 2020 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), more than \$44,000 above an initial objective to raise \$300,000.

“That is 115 percent of the goal,” Chris Fredericks of the Copyright Office said at a virtual closing event for the campaign on Feb. 11. “What a testament to the giving and caring nature of our Library of Congress community.”

Fredericks co-managed the Library’s campaign with Steven Maguire of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Kimberley Isbell of the Copyright Office and Lillian Gassie of CRS served as campaign vice chairs.

The Library’s contribution is included in over \$33 million that the CFC of the National Capital Area pledged in 2020.

Between the campaign’s opening in September and its closing on Jan. 15, Library staff hosted multiple awareness events highlighting the CFC. As with many other things happening during the COVID-19 pandemic, all the events took place virtually. They included the first annual Library CFC cookbook, organized by Andrea Butts of CRS; a virtual 5K fun run and walk, managed by Alison Hall of the Copyright Office; and a virtual story hour and puppet show for Tyler Elementary in Washington, D.C., put together by Ann Roddy of the Asian and Middle Eastern Division and Megan Reilly of CRS.

Speaking on Feb. 11, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden congratulated everyone, including campaign keyworkers, for all the hard work that made the campaign such a success. ■



Courtesy of Bianca Barcelo

Bianca Barcelo

Bianca Barcelo is an assistant general counsel in the Office of the General Counsel who is now serving as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Tell us a little about your background.

I grew up in Miami and went to the University of Miami, where I got a bachelor's degree in political science with a double minor in business law and international studies. I then went to law school at George Mason University. In law school, I worked for the Coast Guard as a paralegal. I knew I wanted to work for the government, and I applied for a commission. I graduated in May 2010, was commissioned in early 2011 and stayed in the Coast Guard until 2016, then joined the Navy Reserve.

What brought you to the Library?

I was recruited by Evelio Rubiella, then in the Office of the General Counsel. We met through the Cuban network: My cousin, visiting me in Washington, D.C., knew

his cousin. He gave me a tour of the Library, and I loved its mission of preserving cultural history. He encouraged me to apply, and I got the call in August 2016. I had competing offers but didn't hesitate. Ironically, I also ended up in Evelio's Navy Reserve unit. The Reserve commitment is one weekend a month, with some commitments during the week, especially if you are in a leadership position.

What do you do for the Library?

I was – and will again be this fall – an assistant general counsel, working primarily on ethics and employment litigation. But in October 2018, I was called into active duty for the Navy and assigned to San Diego.

The Library has been tremendously supportive. Under military leave law, my job is held for up to five years. That's great, because it is nice to know I'll go back and still have a job that I love. I am serving my country, and I am learning a lot.

Tell us about your work for the Navy.

I am an assistant staff judge advocate, serving as legal adviser to the Reserve Component Commander for the Southwest Region. It covers 19 Navy operational support units. I am the only full-time lawyer. Two part-time Reserve attorneys help, and we just got a paralegal.

It's a big job with challenging work, forcing me to grow. It is basically a general counsel position: ethics, agreements, administrative investigations, administrative boards. I do habeas review for people in the brig, making sure we have a basis to hold them. I advise on both criminal and civil litigation, including courts martial.

I'm usually the only woman in a room full of men and lots of admirals. When I joined the Library, I went from male-dominated jobs to working with almost all women. That was really nice. The military is more male dominated and the reserves even more. It's also a bigger bureaucracy than the Library. But I've thoroughly enjoyed everyone I work with and feel very accepted.

You just received an award from the League of United Latin American Citizens. What did you do to earn it?

I received an excellence in service award – it is a national award for service work. Five people get it nationwide. My boss nominated me for it for my service in the military. I've also been doing community service, delivering Meals on Wheels. It was a good way to get to know San Diego. During the pandemic, I also signed up for Big Brother/Big Sister San Diego, meeting with my little sister, Bethany, who is 14 and Hispanic. Spending time with her family is very nice. We go bike riding and on hikes. You learn a lot from being around a teenager. She'll link up her Bluetooth in my car, and I know I'm getting old. I also did lots of past service work. In D.C., I worked at Martha's Table.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I like to spend time outside, especially with my dog Beau.

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

I sing in the LC Chorale as an alto. This season, I will be rehearsing and performing remotely for the June concert of songs from "The Greatest Showman." ■

LC LABS SEEKS RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

The LC Labs team in the Office of the Chief Information Office (OCIO) seeks participants for a user research initiative to help shape future experiments and explore new ways to make the Library's collections and resources more useful. K-12 teachers, community leaders, data journalists and creatives of all disciplines who use the Library's digital resources in their work are encouraged to share their insights with the team. Friends and family of staff members are also welcome to participate. Apply at <http://bit.ly/39zLVET> or send an email to LC-Labs@loc.gov.

Library Wins 2021 Galvez Award

The Library is the 2021 recipient of the Bernardo de Gálvez Award (<http://bit.ly/375SxJ6>), conferred annually by the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos to American citizens or institutions that help promote and nurture relations between Spain and the U.S. The award constitutes an international recognition of the work of the Hispanic Division.

The organizers cited the Library's "valuable contribution to preserving the world's bibliographic and documentary heritage," in particular its collection of items related to the Iberian peninsula, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The Hispanic Division is honored

to work with many colleagues in the Library of Congress and researchers across the country in acquiring, preserving and making available many different kinds of materials from and about Spain," said Suzanne Schadl, chief of the Hispanic Division. "This recognition ... is an acknowledgment of many people's tremendous work."

During the American Revolutionary War, while the Spanish government gave aid to the struggling colonial forces, Gálvez's military exploits helped defeat the British in present-day Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida and Alabama.

Born in the southeastern Spanish province of Málaga, Gálvez grew up

hearing stories about seemingly endless wars in Europe, in which Spain often sided with France against England.

He came to the Americas as a teen and was governor of Spanish Louisiana by the time he was 30. In the war, he provided much-needed weapons, uniforms, medicine and other supplies to the Continental Army, while he advanced the interests of Spain against a common enemy. He also helped found Galveston, Texas, which was then named for him.

In 2014, Congress awarded Gálvez honorary citizenship.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xsY8B> ■

OBITUARY



Sarah Irvine

Sarah Irvine, a retired senior cataloger in the Science, Medicine and Agriculture Section of the U.S. Arts, Sciences and Humanities (USASH) Division died on Jan. 11 from a cardiac arrest.

Born in Washington, D.C., on March 10, 1949, Irvine graduated from Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland, and then attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, graduating in December 1970 with a degree in zoology. While there, she took classes in Russian language and later studied Russian at Georgetown University, begin-

ning a lifelong interest in Russian language, literature and music.

After working for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland, and the Smithsonian Institution, Irvine came to the Library in April 1974 as a processing assistant in the Slavic Section of the Shared Cataloging Division.

In March 1976, she became an English language descriptive cataloger in the Descriptive Cataloging Division; in December 1977, she earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland.

Irvine subsequently used her training in zoology as a cataloger on the biology and agriculture team of the Arts and Sciences Cataloging Division. In a 2013 reorganization, she was assigned to the Science, Medicine and Agriculture Section of USASH, where she remained until her retirement in 2017.

Irvine's consistently high-quality work and thorough knowledge of cataloging documentation earned recognition from supervisors, and she frequently served details to the Office for Descrip-

tive Cataloging Policy to revise cataloging documentation.

When the Library adopted an online cataloging environment, Irvine was called on to teach the class for MARC coding of series authorities, for which Henriette Avram, associate librarian for processing services, honored her with a special achievement award. MARC was developed at the Library under Avram's guidance.

Outside the Library, Irvine had many passions, including reading, music, art, world cultures (particularly Russian and Japanese), genealogy, sports (notably figure skating and the Washington Capitals), ballet and cats. She also enjoyed traveling and visited Japan twice as well as China, Mexico, England, France and sites in the U.S. West and South.

Irvine lived in Greenbelt, Maryland, all her adult life. She was extremely intelligent with a detailed mind and a calm, gentle approach to life. She was also generous and cared deeply about family and friends, who will cherish her memory. ■

HISTORYMAKERS, CONTINUED FROM 1

housed at the Library of Congress,” Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said on Dec. 20 during a virtual celebration of The HistoryMakers’ 20th anniversary.

The Works Projects Administration (WPA) recorded more than 2,300 formerly enslaved people in the 1930s in what came to be known as the WPA slave narratives collection. Between then and the advent of The HistoryMakers, however, there was no methodical, wide-scale effort to capture first-person testimonies documenting the Black experience, leaving a gap in the record.

Led by Richardson, a former corporate lawyer and television producer, The HistoryMakers set out to fill it by building a collection of high-quality video interviews accompanied by transcripts conveying the personal stories of both well-known and unsung African Americans in an array of fields – law, medicine, education, politics, entertainment, religion, science, the arts, the military, sports and more.

Baseball legend Aaron speaks about his time playing for the Indianapolis Clowns in the Negro American League in 1952. He said he earned \$200 a month, most of which he sent home to his mother. For meals while traveling, he pooled resources with teammate James Jenkins to buy large jars of peanut butter and loaves of bread to eat.

Like Aaron, who died last month, hundreds of HistoryMakers have passed away since being interviewed, many with no other extensive record of their lives.

In her interview, Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, a registered nurse elected to the Maryland General Assembly in 1994, recounts campaigning successfully as a “nurse for your political health” to represent Baltimore’s 10th district.

Civil rights leader Dorothy Height reminisces about growing up in Harlem surrounded by fabulously

talented people – Duke Ellington, Cab Calloway, Lena Horne and Count Basie among them – and working for celebrated performer and political activist Paul Robeson on housing for the poor. “Harlem was just a marvelous place for me to grow up,” she said.

And a chuckling Barack Obama, an Illinois state senator at the time of his interview, answers a series of lighthearted questions – interviewers ask subjects about “favorites” along with more weighty matters. Obama’s favorites: color (maybe blue); vacation destination (Bali, Indonesia); season (late summer, early fall); phrase or saying (I’m tired).

Once the original batch of 2,608 interviews – just over 16,000 files – arrived at NAVCC’s in 2014, the Moving Image Section staff began to devise a workflow to preserve them and make them accessible at the Library. They’ve applied what they learned from the experience to born-digital collections acquired since.

Files for the interviews come to the Library on external hard drives. First, staff scan the files for viruses; then, they offload them onto the Library’s network grouped by year of recording as space allows, working with colleagues in NAVCC’s Technology Office and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Accomplishing this task isn’t as simple as it may sound, Andrea Leigh, head of the section’s processing unit, said. “Individual interviews consist of multiple segments that are sometimes located on separate hard drives.”

She and her staff began using scripts to automate creation of complete access copies – a practice they’ve employed since with other digital acquisitions. The copies are ingested into the Library’s collections management system, after which staff apply descriptive metadata to each interview to facilitate its discovery.

Access copies are then made available in all 23 Library reading rooms, and preservation copies

are placed in a deep archive.

For most moving images Leigh’s unit processes – films, for example – titles are the primary descriptor. For The HistoryMakers, however, interviewee names are the chief way to access content.

“It was different that we had to focus so diligently on the creators as the main access point,” Leigh said.

For each interviewee, catalogers in Leigh’s unit also establish a name authority record, and they share the records in the Library of Congress name authority database, available on the Library’s website.

Institutions beyond the Library that subscribe to The HistoryMakers’ digital archive can then use the name authorities, making interviewees searchable across libraries and connecting HistoryMakers to archival records in other places.

The University of Virginia is one such institutional subscriber. It received a \$1 million grant from the Mellon Foundation in 2018 to expand access to The HistoryMakers, and it is relying on Library of Congress name authorities as one avenue for accomplishing that.

The name authorities make the Library “one piece of a puzzle in terms of providing wider access and discovery,” Leigh said. Her unit will have processed 3,300 interviews by year’s end – matching the total number of interviews now completed.

“The HistoryMakers is important to us for many reasons, not least of which is that, as our first born-digital collection, we created workflows for it that have been continually refined and are used every day in our section,” Mike Mashon, head of the Moving Image Section, said. “But more than that, we treasure our collaboration with Julieanna Richardson and her team and are immensely proud to be the permanent archival home for this magnificent collection.” ■