

INSIDE

Transcriptions Soar

Public interaction with the crowd-sourced transcription project by the People more than tripled in 2020.

PAGE 3



Digitized Letters Released

Letters from sultans and notables to pioneering British colonial administrator William Farquhar document the founding of modern Singapore.

PAGE 4



Courtroom Sketches Acquired

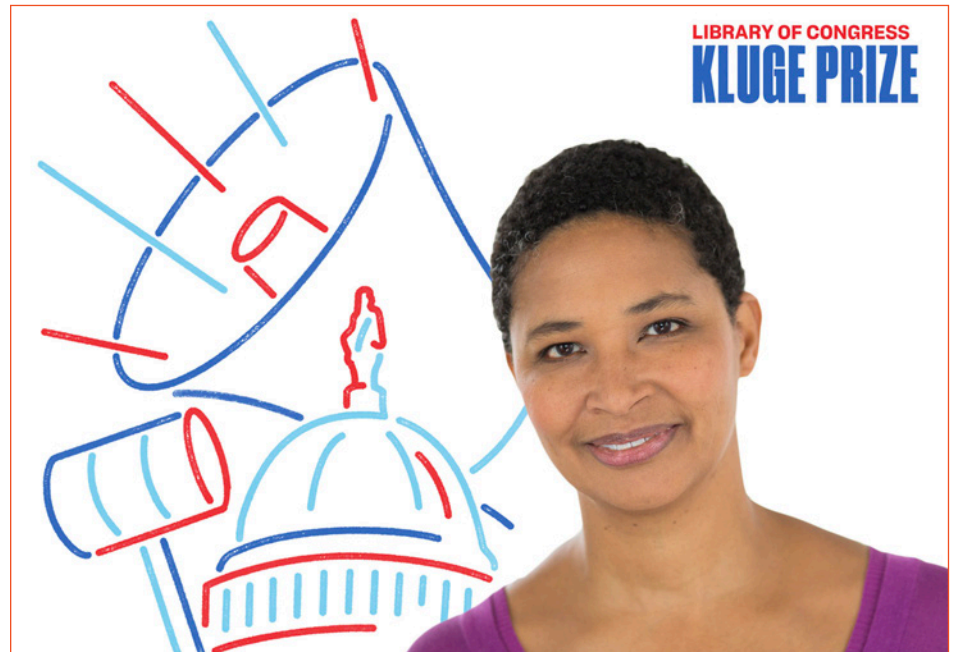
Artist Mary Chaney documented the police brutality trials following the savage 1991 beating of motorist Rodney King.

PAGE 5

Q&A: Manae Fujishiro

The retired senior cataloger has volunteered at the Library regularly for 15 years, helping to make Japanese-language materials accessible to researchers around the world.

PAGE 6



Poster art by Rodrigo Corral; photo by Laura Rose

Danielle Allen, 2020 Kluge Prize recipient, appears before poster art created by Rodrigo Corral in support of the major new project she developed to advance civic engagement. A full view of the poster is available on the Kluge Center's website (<https://go.usa.gov/xsZ9W>).

Campaign to Explore Civic Engagement Launches

Kluge Prize winner Danielle Allen invites Americans of all ages to help strengthen democracy.

BY LEAH KNOBEL

Danielle Allen last week launched a campaign to explore ideas and actions to strengthen America's democracy through civic engagement. Allen was awarded the 2020 Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity this past June. The series, called "Our Common Purpose – A Campaign for Civic Strength," will involve multiple events hosted by Allen as well as workshops for K-12 educators and public librarians.

"We all know that this is a critical and urgent moment in our nation's history," Allen stated in a

Feb. 18 press release announcing the campaign. "We have faced crises as a nation before. We can continue to watch and worry and tweet at each other – or we can emerge stronger and more resilient by taking real action now to save our constitutional democracy."

Artist Rodrigo Corral created original artwork for "Our Common Purpose." The campaign's poster showcases the shared iconography of American civic life as well as the Juneteenth flag, a lesser known symbol of our country's history that visually represents the end of slavery in the United States.

COMMON PURPOSE, CONTINUED ON 7

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 national, state and local data related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past two weeks, cases, hospitalizations and deaths from the virus have declined significantly.

However, public health officials warn of the possibility of another surge in COVID-19 cases as variants become more predominant across the country. For that reason, HSD encourages Library staff to remain focused on steps to reduce COVID-19 transmission, including maintaining physical distance between people of six feet or more, wearing masks properly, washing hands and avoiding crowds.

HSD continues as well to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results associated with COVID-19. On Feb. 18, 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. 11. 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/xsxxkv>.

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 this month. 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 ocioservicedesk@loc.gov.

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 12 Gazette is Wednesday, March 3.

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.

By the People Sees Dramatic Jump in Engagement

BY CARLYN OSBORN

As the world became virtual last year with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many parts of the Library reimagined their offerings to enable online engagement. By the People did not have to do that – it has been an online endeavor from the start. But the crowd-sourced transcription project had a transformative year nonetheless.

In January 2020, between 500 to 1,000 transcription actions occurred every day. By mid-April, 3,000 to 3,500 were taking place daily, and that level has been sustained ever since.

Launched in 2018, By the People began as an LC Labs experiment (<https://labs.loc.gov>). It invites volunteers to transcribe historical materials. Most are handwritten, although some are complex typed documents. After they are peer-reviewed for accuracy by volunteers, transcriptions are integrated into the Library's digital collections, making transcribed documents searchable by keyword and readable with accessibility technologies.

For two years, Labs administered By the People in partnership with the Platform Services Division of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and Library Services, testing the project's potential to engage the public. Once By the People demonstrated its power to connect people with the Library, the program and its staff moved to the Digital Content Management Section (DCM), where I work.

"We offer the opportunity for the public to connect deeply with our collections, not only by using them, but also by contributing back to the Library," said Lauren Algee, a By the People community manager. "This unique engagement allows us to reach scholars and students as well as people who don't have a specific research topic or who perhaps didn't previously realize the Library is for them."



By the People launched campaigns in 2020 to transcribe original handwritten materials tied to Theodore Roosevelt (top left), Mary Church Terrell (top right), the Blackwell family (bottom left), women's suffrage (top center and bottom right) and historical Spanish legal documents (bottom center).

One such person is Judith, a volunteer who reported on her experience. "Isolated at home for much more time than usual, I'm on [By the People] every day learning American history I never knew, meeting famous people I'd only heard of and getting to know them as real people," she wrote. Henry, another volunteer, said, "I learned so much about prejudice and the fight for civil rights. [Mary Church Terrell] was a remarkable woman."

Thanks to Judith, Henry and tens of thousands of others – including of late many teleworking Library staff – By the People transcriptions now accompany loc.gov presentations of the Samuel J. Gibson Civil War diary and the papers of Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, William Oland Bourne, Carrie Chapman Catt, Abraham Lincoln, Branch Rickey, Rosa Parks and Terrell.

For DCM, integrating transcriptions into loc.gov involves a multistep process. Called "data round tripping," it starts when all transcriptions are completed for a campaign or for a subset of projects within a campaign.

First, a campaign curator checks transcriptions for errors that would affect their accessibility and works with By the People community managers to make any necessary changes. Then, DCM staff export transcription data from the By the People platform, Concordia, and run scripts to ensure it is structured properly for presentation and long-term storage. Finally, OCIO aligns the transcriptions with the corresponding items and images on loc.gov.

By the end of 2020, By the People had published transcriptions for more than 26,000 pages of material on loc.gov since its launch. That number represents only about 10 percent of all the completed transcriptions we had on crowd.loc.gov at the start of 2021 (we recently hit a quarter million). So, we are eager to watch that percentage grow.

We're also excited to announce brand new campaigns, including for the James A. Garfield presidential papers in early March.

Stay tuned! ■

New Online: 19th-Century Malay Letters

The collection offers insight into the founding of modern Singapore.

BY JOSHUA KUEH

The Asian Division last month announced the launch of a new digital collection of 19th-century Malay letters, mainly from sultans and notables from around the Malay world to William Farquhar (1774-1839), a pioneering British colonial administrator in Singapore. The digital presentation provides online access to an important resource on the founding of a British trading post in Singapore while giving audiences worldwide a chance to view high-quality images of exemplars of Malay letter writing.

The letters (<https://go.usa.gov/xsTTT>) came to the attention of the scholarly community in 1990, when an uncatalogued volume of correspondence caught the eye of an Asian Division librarian. In the leather-bound tome were 46 letters written in Jawi, an adaptation of the Arabic script for writing Malay. It was a major discovery, the letters being one of three main sources of Farquhar's correspondence.

Farquhar was a key figure in the founding of modern Singapore. From working in the Malay Archipelago as an officer of the British East India Company for more than 20 years, he forged close relationships with local society. When he was appointed as the top British political agent on the island, he called on these ties to further British interests.

Letters in the collection speak to this dynamic, particularly one written by a prince whose throne had been usurped by his brother (<https://go.usa.gov/xsTTm>). The prince asks Farquhar for a loan – not the only time he had done so. A famous 19th-century Malay autobiography, the “Hikayat Abdullah” by Abdullah bin Abdul Kadir,



This rare 1822 letter from Sultanah Siti Fatimah binti Jamaluddin Abdul Rahman of Pammana to William Farquhar is one of the only extant Malay letters from a reigning woman monarch.

reveals that the prince owed Farquhar enormous sums of money. Much beholden to Farquhar, the prince eventually reclaimed his kingdom with the help of the British and signed the treaty granting the British permission to establish a trading post in Singapore.

Another letter (<https://go.usa.gov/xsTb2>) offers a rare opportunity to hear the voice of a woman from the Malay-speaking world. Sultanah Siti Fatimah binti Jamaluddin Abdul Rahman of Pammana was a reigning monarch when she wrote the 1822 letter, one of the only extant Malay letters from a woman in that position.

Apart from the letters, the collection also holds a few epistles between influential Malay figures and businessmen, Chinese among them, and thus hints at the inter-

communal connections vital to the world in which Farquhar and the Malay rulers operated.

Beyond their historical importance, the letters are noteworthy as sources of original Malay letter writing, affording researchers insight not only into the nuances of the Malay language, but also into the importance of visual presentation. Elements such as calligraphy, layout, impressions of seals denoting the relative status of sender and recipient and letter folds are evident from the originals in the newly released collection.

The provenance of the letters was uncertain until research recently uncovered three lists of books in the Smithsonian Institution's archives that show they were purchased by an American missionary, Alfred North.

I detailed the search for the origins of the Malay letters in a blog post (<https://go.usa.gov/xsTWK>) published a few weeks ago, and more information on the letters is available in a research guide (<https://go.usa.gov/xsTW9>) and a finding aid (<https://go.usa.gov/xsTWR>).

Since the launch of the collection, scholars around the world have been posting transliterations and translations on social media, thus making the collection even more accessible to a broad audience. ■

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioserVICES@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/

Retirement Planning Seminars

To help staff make informed decisions about retirement, the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) is offering virtual seminars this year for employees at different stages of their careers.

Preretirement Planning (LCRET300)
March 23-25; June 22-24; Aug. 10-12; Sept. 21-23

This three-day class is for staff who are five or fewer years away from retirement or who have 20 or more years of service. It will help staff assess their readiness for retirement, calculate their retirement benefits and create a retirement budget. Topics covered include health-care benefits and estate planning.

Midcareer Retirement Planning (LCRET200)
April 7-8; May 5-6; Aug. 25-26

This two-day class is for staff in the middle of their careers. It will help them understand how retirement benefits are calculated and assess their current financial planning, including whether they are investing in the right Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) funds. Topics covered include insurance options and estate planning.

New Employee Financial Planning (LCRET100)
April 14; June 9; Sept. 8

This one-day class for newly hired staff members with up to five years of service introduces TSP and the Federal Employees Retirement System. It will help staff understand their eligibility for benefits and create a budget and investment plan for retirement.

For more information and to sign up for courses, visit HCD's retirement planning webpage (<https://go.usa.gov/xsjHd>).

Questions? Contact HCD staff at Ask HCD (<https://bit.ly/31fqIKw>) or (202) 707-5627. ■

Library Acquires Courtroom Sketches of Rodney King Trials

The trials were the first major proceedings to address civil rights for a Black man facing arrest.

The Library announced this week the acquisition of more than 200 sketches of the Rodney King police brutality trials against four Los Angeles police officers in the 1990s, drawn by courtroom sketch artist Mary Chaney (1927-2005).

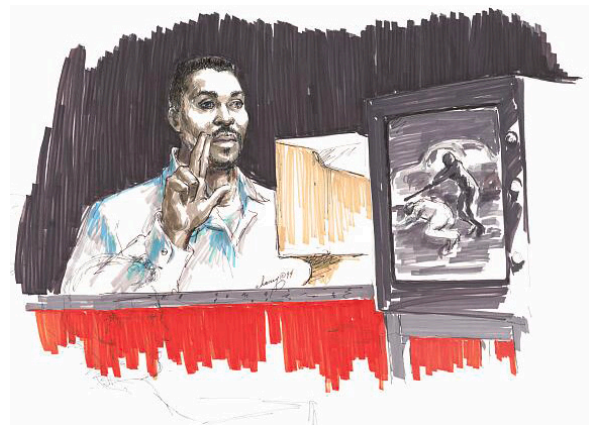
King, an unarmed African American man, was savagely beaten by four white police officers on March 3, 1991, after he led them on a nighttime high-speed chase during his arrest for drunken driving in Los Angeles.

Caught on tape by George Holliday from his apartment balcony, the beating resulted in an early version of what today would be considered a viral video. Officers Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind, Stacey Koon and Ted Briseno were tried in federal and civil court for excessive use of force.

The collection of 269 sketches from their trials between 1992 and 1994 – including 140 original sketches donated by Chaney's estate and 129 purchased by the Library – constitute the Library's first acquisition of courtroom drawings by a California-based woman artist.

"I'm so very pleased that she is going to be in the Library of Congress," said Chaney's daughter, Lark Ireland. "She had quite a passion for civil rights, so when the beating occurred ... so many people were horrified about it, as she was."

Sara Duke, curator of popular and



Rodney King speaks while a recording of his beating plays at his civil trial in 1994.

Mary Chaney

applied graphic art in the Prints and Photographs Division, said she seeks out courtroom drawings that are touchpoints in American history. "The sketches from the federal trial against the police officers for violating Rodney King's civil rights and his civil lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles stand out as the type the Library should be collecting and making available to researchers," Duke said.

The federal criminal trial and the civil trial against the four police officers in the King case are considered a pivotal moment in legal history, because they were the first major proceedings to deal with civil rights for African Americans facing arrest.

The officers' acquittal on April 29, 1992, on state criminal charges led to five days of rioting and looting that left more than 60 people dead and caused an estimated \$1 billion in damages.

King died on June 17, 2012, of accidental drowning in his pool at his home in Rialto, California.

Chaney's sketches join an extensive collection of drawings (<https://go.usa.gov/xsjSt>) covering court cases from 1964 to the present, including landmark cases, murder and terrorism trials, race-based crimes and celebrity trials. ■



Manae Fujishiro

Manae Fujishiro is a longtime volunteer in the Northeast Asia Section of the Asian and Middle Eastern Division. Previously, she worked as a cataloger at the Library.

Tell us a little about your background.

I was born in Osaka, Japan, 88 years ago. One of my core experiences was taking care of children younger than I was during World War II in the countryside of Japan. I attended the University of Tsukuba, formerly known as Tokyo University of Education, which was founded in 1872 and is one of the oldest universities in Japan.

I came to the U.S. in 1953 to study at the University of Kentucky, majoring in library science. After graduation, I worked as a children's librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library in New York. I then returned to Japan and worked as a librarian in an elementary school on an American military base, at the British Consular Library and at the U.S. Information Service Library before establishing permanent residence in the U.S. in 1971.

What did you do during your Library of Congress career?

I joined the Japan team of the former Regional Cooperative Cataloging Division as a cataloger in 1971. I specialized in cataloging current and rare Japanese books as well as other formats of materials, such as posters, prints, maps and manuscripts. I retired as a senior cataloger in January 2006 after serving at the Library for 35 years.

What brought you back to the Library, and what do you do?

After retiring from the Library, I came right back after a day or two to finish up cataloging the Japanese materials that I had been working with for more than three decades. In 2000, we identified about 40,000 Japanese items that had not been cataloged in the stacks of the Adams Building. I was chosen to assist with sorting and classifying materials into groups as collections.

Cataloging Japanese materials is something I can do well, and I felt that I could continuously contribute to the Library with the skills I have to make sure all the items were cataloged correctly and make them accessible to researchers around the world. I felt a deep sense of responsibility to complete this task.

What are some of your standout projects?

One-of-a-kind collections that I cataloged over the years relate to Japan's World War II-era navy and army, pre-World War II Japanese textbooks and maps, Japanese posters and rare books (mainly from the Edo period), the South Manchuria Railway Company and

publications subject to censorship by the Japanese imperial government. Also, I can say proudly that most of the items previously identified as "not cataloged" in the stacks of the Adams Building in 2000 are now all cataloged and available for access following my volunteering almost every day for 15 years, except for my birthday and occasional visits to doctors' offices.

What do you enjoy doing outside of volunteering?

I have been playing tennis for almost 75 years – since middle school. I used to play three times a week. But since the pandemic, I have played every day with my husband. In 1991, when I was a member of the Capitol Hill Tennis Club, I won mixed doubles and got a free airline ticket to France. Also, I developed the habit of visiting a ceramic studio twice a week and have done so for over 45 years now. I can count on my two hands the days I missed doing these two activities.

At home, I enjoy watching the national sumo wrestling competition in Japan. Another of my pleasures is inviting all the staff from the section where I volunteer and retired Library colleagues to my house every Christmas holiday season to share food, drinks and pottery pieces I make as presents. I let my guests select pottery pieces by seniority! I also love to play piano to entertain them.

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

I become a zombie if I have to do daily house chores, but I turn into a hummingbird, dancing and singing old songs over a glass of plum sake, whenever I hear music. ■

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, data journalists and creatives of all disciplines who use the Library's digital resources 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.

NEWS

COMMON PURPOSE, CONTINUED FROM 1

“The art celebrates so much of what the Kluge Prize and Danielle Allen stand for: togetherness, connectivity, action and, above all else, the bonds we have in our communities no matter our differences,” Corral said.

The first event of the campaign, “Using Civic Media to Build a Better Society,” is scheduled for March 11 at 1 p.m. Allen will host a panel that will explore the role of information in democratic societies in an effort to address the challenges citizens face in consuming the deluge of materials available in the digital age and in identifying trustworthy sources of information.

Panelists include Talia Stroud of the University of Texas, a nationally renowned expert on commercially viable and democratically beneficial ways to improve media; Brendesha Tynes of the University of Southern California, a leader in studying how youth experience digital media and how it affects academic and emotional development; and Richard Young, founder of CivicLex, a Lexington, Kentucky, nonprofit that is using technology, media and social practices to strengthen civic engagement.

On April 15 at 1 p.m., Allen will host “How Political Institutions Shape Outcomes and How We Might Reform Them,” a panel exploring how different systems of electoral decision-making can lead to different outcomes and what can be done to encourage more responsive and deliberative legislative bodies.

Panelists are Lee Drutman of the New America Foundation, who has written about reforming political parties, electoral systems and Congress; Katie Fahey from Of the People, an organization dedicated to pursuing reforms to empower individuals in the political system; and Cara McCormick of the National Association of Non-Partisan Reformers, an advocate for electoral reform.

The third and final event on May 13, “Finding a Shared Historical Narra-

tive,” will focus on changing interpretations of the nation’s founding documents and common tensions in addressing the history of the American legacy. Details on speakers for this event are still to come.

All of the events will be hosted virtually on the Library’s Facebook page and its YouTube site. Updates about the events and the campaign can be found on the Kluge Center’s blog (<https://go.usa.gov/xsZZp>) and the Kluge Prize site (<https://go.usa.gov/xsZZw>).

To engage the country’s youth and create new ways to make civic education come to life for them, the Library and Allen will also host a series of workshops for K-12 educators on the topics covered in the three public events. The workshops, to be held March through May, will be recorded and made available this summer at loc.gov/teachers.

In addition, the Library will be organizing a conference with public librarians from across the country later this year. Hundreds of librarians will participate in six weeks of moderated, online discussion to explore ways in which they guide citizens of all ages in finding credible information on the internet. A smaller, representative group of participating librarians will share their findings with Allen and the president of the American Library Association in a report.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is supporting the campaign. It recently released a report co-edited by Allen titled “Reinvent-

ing Democracy for the 21st Century” (<http://bit.ly/3dwZ2sy>).

Allen is an academic, political theorist, author and columnist. A native of Takoma Park, Maryland, she grew up in California. She is now the James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University and director of Harvard’s Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics.

Allen is author of “Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality,” “Why Plato Wrote” and “Cuz: The Life and Times of Michael A,” a memoir that examines the way that racism in the justice system and mass incarceration impacted her own family.

The Kluge Prize recognizes the highest level of scholarly achievement and impact on public affairs and is considered one of the nation’s most prestigious awards in the humanities and social sciences.

“At a time when trust in both civic and scientific institutions seems to be at a low point, Allen’s research, writing and public engagement exemplify the societal value of careful scholarship and inclusive dialogue,” Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said. “Her engagement with public policy issues ... demonstrates the possibility and value of careful, judicious and rational deliberation among individuals from multiple academic disciplines and vastly different political backgrounds.” ■

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