

## 2022 Combined Federal Campaign Is Here

The Library seeks to raise \$300,000.

BY MARÍA PEÑA AND LEAH KNOBEL

As many Americans struggle with difficult economic conditions and personal hardships, giving back through charity is an important opportunity to support our neighbors in need. Earlier this week, the Library kicked off its annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) charity drive. Employees can help the Library surpass its \$300,000 goal in pledges and volunteer hours between now and Jan. 14, 2023, when the campaign ends.

Overseen by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), CFC's mission is "to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient and effective," according to the agency's website.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden is chairing the Library's campaign. Deanna McCray-James of the Office of Communications and Lele Yang of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled are the campaign managers. Guy Lamolinara of the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement and Eduardo Soares of the Law Library are serving as vice chairs.

In addition, dozens of staff members from across Library divisions, including many returning volunteers, will join this year's campaign as service unit coordinators and keyworkers.

The 2022 CFC slogan – "You can be the face of change" – encourages

CFC, CONTINUED ON 6



Shawn Miller

Ada Limón gave her inaugural reading as poet laureate in the Coolidge Auditorium on Sept. 29.

## Ada Limón Gives Opening Reading to Packed Crowd

The new poet laureate's most devoted readers feel as if they are on a journey with her.

BY CLAY SMITH

Last Friday, the day after Ada Limón gave her first reading as U.S. poet laureate in the Coolidge Auditorium, Literary Initiatives got an email asking us how we got an overflow audience for her event – and such a diverse crowd, too. What had we done to make the event stand out?

The answer, which is quite odd to admit, is: It wasn't us. It's true that Literary Initiatives and our Library co-sponsor, the Latin American, Caribbean and European Division, worked with our partners in the Library Events Office, the Office of

Communications and the Visitor Engagement Office to promote the event extensively – as we do with every poet laureate opening reading. This event was also part of our Live at the Library series, which has drawn terrific crowds throughout its five-month pilot run.

But the credit really goes to Limón. Her poetry has captured readers' imaginations and emotions like no other contemporary American poet's work has. People want to hear from Limón, in person. Her most devoted readers feel as if they are on a journey with her.

POET LAUREATE, CONTINUED ON 7

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at [amcallister@loc.gov](mailto:amcallister@loc.gov).

Lynette Brown  
Joselynn Fountain

Cherkea Howery  
Wilbur King

## PHASED RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS INVITED

Phased retirement applications are invited from Oct. 7 through Nov. 25.

Phased retirement is a human capital tool designed to transfer knowledge and skills from experienced employees to others. It allows eligible and approved full-time employees who are planning to retire to work a part-time schedule and engage in knowledge transfer activities while beginning to draw partial retirement benefits.

Applicants who are approved will be notified by their service unit between Dec. 15 and 22. Those who are not approved may request reconsideration between Dec. 23 and 30. Service units will issue decisions on reconsideration requests by Jan. 19, 2023.

Approved employees must then begin phased retirement on the first day of any pay period after Jan. 29, 2023, but no later than six months from the date of their approval. More information is available in this [FAQ](#).

Questions? Submit questions and applications through [AskHCD](#) (select Retirement, then Phased Retirement); send an email to [AskHR@loc.gov](mailto:AskHR@loc.gov); or call (202) 707-5627.

## JOIN THE WOMEN'S FORUM BOARD: DEADLINE TODAY

Interested in getting involved with the Women's Forum for Growth and Networking of the Library of Congress Professional Association? The board is looking for volunteers in the areas of operations, events and communications.

To express interest, write to [womensforumboard@loc.gov](mailto:womensforumboard@loc.gov) indicating the area(s) you would like to support. The deadline is close of business today, Oct. 7.

Questions? Contact [womensforumboard@loc.gov](mailto:womensforumboard@loc.gov).

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# GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://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](http://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.

### Library of Congress Gazette

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Oct. 21 Gazette is Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto: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](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# Marybeth Peters

On Sept. 29, the copyright community lost a friend, advocate and scholar when Marybeth Peters passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 83. Having served the Copyright Office for more than four decades in numerous capacities, including as the office's head, she was a global authority on copyright law and a well-known and well-loved presence in the world of copyright.

Her passing marks the loss of an influential force in the development of copyright law and an unparalleled source of expertise. Throughout her long tenure as the register of copyrights, Peters was sought after by Congress, scholars and copyright industries for her vision and analysis.

"Marybeth Peters leaves an unparalleled legacy as a champion for creativity and an inspiring leader," said Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter. "Her broad and deep knowledge of copyright was matched only by her warmth and generosity in sharing it with all of us."

Peters, who was born in 1939, was a native of East Providence, Rhode Island, and earned her bachelor's degree at Rhode Island College in 1961. She received a law degree from the George Washington University Law School in 1971.

Peters joined the Library of Congress as a shelf lister in the Processing Department in 1965 and became a music examiner in the Copyright Office in 1966. In 1975, she joined the Copyright Office's Office of the General Counsel as an attorney-adviser. With the enactment of the Copyright Act of 1976, Peters developed and implemented training for Copyright Office staff, industry representatives and the public regarding the changes in copyright law. She also wrote "The General Guide to the Copyright Act of 1976."

In 1977, Peters was promoted to chief of the Information and Reference Division and was appointed



U.S. Copyright Office

chief of the Examining Division in 1980. She served as adviser to the register on policy planning starting in 1983 and in 1993 added the position of acting general counsel to her portfolio. During this period, she also served as a consultant on copyright law to the World Intellectual Property Organization and earned a reputation as a leading expert on U.S. and international copyright law.

On Aug. 7, 1994, Peters took office as the 11th register of copyrights, the first woman after Barbara Ringer to serve in that role.

Her expertise and advice were critical to the drafting and passage of several amendments to the Copyright Act, and her leadership was instrumental in the implementation of several statutes, such as the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the Digital Performance Right in Sound Recordings Act, the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), which brought the U.S. copyright system into the internet age.

At the request of Congress, she submitted several major reports on copyright policy issues, many of which led to the introduction of legislation. She also advised Congress on all copyright legislation that was enacted during

her tenure as register and testified at many hearings on copyright policy and legislation.

Peters was the first register to oversee the Copyright Office's new role under section 1201 of the DMCA in creating exemptions from the anticircumvention law. Her leadership of the office also included the generation of several landmark studies, such as those on statutory licenses, protection of databases and orphan works. She also was largely responsible for the monumental development of the first electronic registration system. "This will be my legacy," Peters once noted.

In recognition of the growing importance of international copyright issues, she established the Office of Policy and International Affairs led by an associate register of copyrights, which has played an active role assisting in the representation of the United States at the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization, in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations and in other international forums.

Peters retired from the Office in 2010 after serving as register for 16 years. She had a longer tenure than any other register except for the first register, Thorvald Solberg.

**OBITUARY, CONTINUED ON 4**

# Excused Absence to Vote, Be a Nonpartisan Poll Worker

To facilitate civic participation, the Library has expanded and simplified options for excused absence to vote in elections and to serve as a nonpartisan election worker, as reflected in the recently updated Library of Congress Directive [9-1030.1](#), “Excused Absence for Voting and Non-Partisan Election Work.”

The Library encourages you to exercise your right to vote. For many years, employees have been authorized up to three hours of administrative leave to vote on election day, based on when the polls open or close in the jurisdiction where they vote. Expanding on this, for the upcoming general election, you may:

- Be granted up to four hours of excused absence to vote (but must, of course, take only as much time as you actually need).
- Be excused to vote on election day or during periods of early or late voting.
- Be excused without regard to the time the polls open or close. If you are on a flexible schedule, you are not required use midday flex to vote and to make up the time later.

New this year, you may also be authorized up to eight hours of excused absence on one day per leave year to work as a nonparti-

san poll worker or nonpartisan poll observer.

Only nonpartisan work qualifies for this excused absence. You should refer to Library of Congress Regulation [9-1780](#) for information on distinguishing partisan versus nonpartisan activities and may request guidance from the Office of the General Counsel at [ethics@loc.gov](mailto:ethics@loc.gov). If your election administration duties (including necessary training) require absence from work for more than eight hours, you must request accrued leave for the additional time.

You must provide documentation of your service as an election worker in support of your leave request. You should not accept payment from your local jurisdiction for working while you are on paid excused absence from the Library.

Scheduling excused absence for voting and nonpartisan election administration work is subject to your supervisor’s prior approval and a determination that you can be spared from duty for the time requested. Supervisors should strive to make adjustments to accommodate employee requests, and employees should work with supervisors to ensure adequate coverage of unit operations. ■

**OBITUARY, CONTINUED FROM 3**

After her retirement, Peters served as senior counsel at the law firms of Oblon, Spivak, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt and Muncy, Geissler, Olds & Lowe. She also served on the board of directors of the Copyright Clearance Center.

Throughout her career, Peters was sought after as a speaker on copyright law and as a lecturer and adjunct professor at law schools, including the Catholic University of America, Georgetown University and the University of Miami.

She maintained memberships with the Copyright Society of the USA, the Intellectual Property Section of the American Bar Association, the U.S. chapter of the Association Littéraire et Artistique Internationale, the American Intellectual Property Law Association and the International Technology Law Association.

Peters was recognized with numerous awards from intellectual property organizations, bar associations and creative industry associations across the country.

She is survived by three generations of nephews and nieces, including nephew Michael Peters of Burlington, Connecticut, and niece MaryAnn Peters Torsiello of West Palm Beach, Florida. She will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by countless close friends and colleagues from across the country and around the world.

Peters will be laid to rest at Mount Saint Mary Cemetery in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. ■

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO SIGN UP HERE**

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ALUMNI NETWORK**

Questions or ideas? Contact [alumni@loc.gov](mailto:alumni@loc.gov)

[www.loc.gov/alumni](http://www.loc.gov/alumni)

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

To reach the U.S. Capitol Police for any emergency, call 911 from any Library landline or (202) 707-7111 from any mobile phone. (Dialing 911 from a mobile phone connects the caller with the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.)

To reach the Capitol Police for nonemergencies, call 7-1000 from any Library landline or (202) 707-1000 from any mobile phone.

# QUESTION & ANSWER

## John Hessler

John Hessler will retire from the Geography and Map Division (G&M) at the end of this month.

### Tell us about your background.

I grew up in New York City and spent most of my youth wandering around the American Museum of Natural History.

When I was 9 years old, one of the geology curators who noticed I was there all the time invited me behind the scenes. Later, he took me on field trips and to the Rutgers Geology Museum, where I was the youngest member of the museum's volunteer fossil preparers. It was there that I really learned about science and fieldwork.

While attending Villanova University as an undergrad, I became an avid mountain climber; I have always been drawn to remote and wild places. My graduate work and writing on Indigenous ethnobotany and linguistics in the Amazon reflects my love of fieldwork. Even now, I am studying the [ethnobotany of the Cahuilla people](#) in the deserts of Joshua Tree National Park.

### What brought you to the Library?

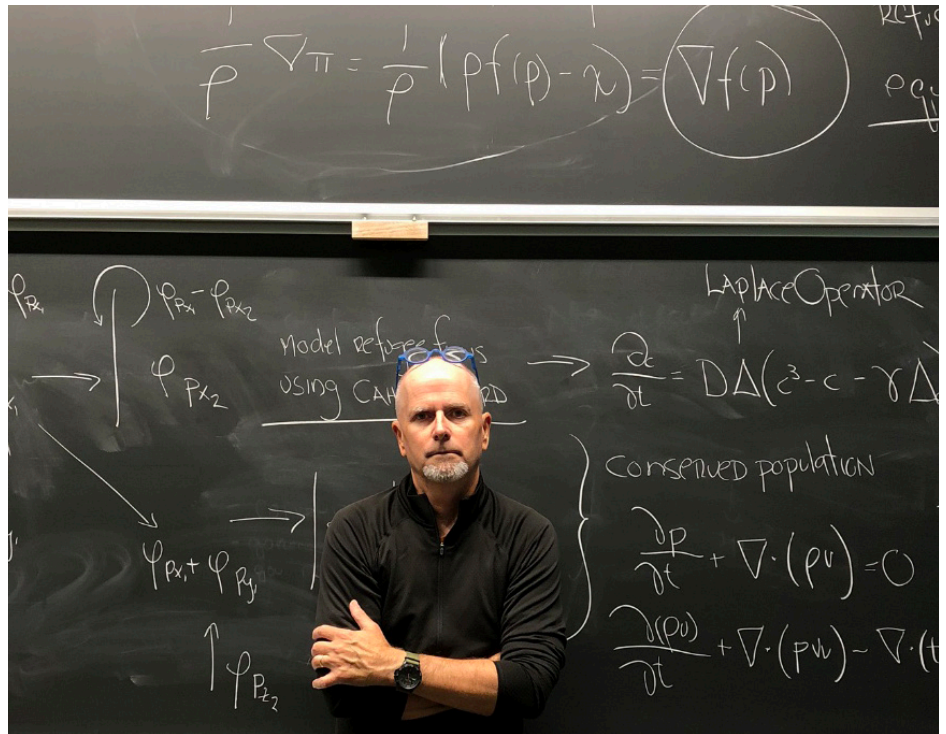
I came to the Library after working for many years at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, where I was part of the entomology and botany departments.

My work there was in support of field biologists – mapping species distributions for biodiversity studies. My own research centered on mapping the biogeography of high-altitude Lepidoptera in the Alps.

I was paid not as a museum employee but out of research grants. So, at 40 years old, I thought I should finally get a real job, and I came to the Library in 2002. I'm a specialist in geographic information science in G&M.

### How did your career evolve?

I have had a great deal of support and freedom to explore at the Library. Over the course of my time here, I have somehow managed



Courtesy of John Hessler

to write 12 books, including the New York Times bestseller “Map: Exploring the World,” which combines my thoughts on the modern and historical parts of the field.

I have also written books and edited facsimile editions about some of the Library's great masterpieces like Galileo's “Sidereus Nuncius,” Columbus' book of privileges, Henry David Thoreau's maps and, of course, the famous 1507 world map by Martin Waldseemüller.

### What achievements are you most proud of?

The thing I am most proud of is what I have been able to do with the Jay I. Kislak Collection. When I was asked to become its curator a little more than a decade ago, I was just finishing a stint as a Kluge Center staff fellow. Since that time, I feel that we have really put this collection on the map (no pun intended).

I was able to present classes on Mesoamerican archaeology and language, train my own docents, give lots of gallery talks, mentor 17 archaeological research fellows and sponsor scholarly conferences. Now,

we are designing a new gallery that will open in early 2024.

Besides this, I was able to write a book about the collection called “Collecting for a New World: Treasures of the Early Americas.” For the first time, it tells the story of the collection's amazing objects, books and manuscripts. This fall, my second book about the collection, “Exposing the Maya: Early Archaeological Photography in the Americas,” will publish. I dedicated it to Kislak's memory.

### What are some standout moments from your time at the Library?

Perhaps the two things that stand out the most are the acquisition of the [Codex Quetzalecatzin](#) and the recent purchase of the San Salvador Codex, yet to be digitized.

For someone who is interested in the Indigenous languages of the Americas, the ability to bring these spectacular objects into the Library collections is the standout moment. Never in my wildest dreams did I think it would be possible to bring two manuscripts of this rarity into our collections.

They are truly amazing pieces

Q&A, CONTINUED ON 6

# NEWS

## Q&A, CONTINUED FROM 5

of Indigenous history, written in Spanish, Nahuatl and Mixtec hieroglyphs. The purchase of these manuscripts was, of course, not exclusively by me. G&M's acquisitions specialist, Robert Morris, with whom I have worked with on numerous additions to the collections, first brought both of them to my attention. We worked closely with Library management to acquire these priceless objects.

### What's next for you?

In the coming months, I will be relocating to Nice on the French Riviera, and I will also continue my teaching at Johns Hopkins University, where I have been on the faculty for more than a decade. I will also continue my teaching in the summer at Sorbonne Université in Paris.

Besides that, I have lots of travel in the coming months and will carry on with my writing for *Alpinist* magazine, where I have been a frequent contributor for many years.

Anyone interested can always see what I am up to at <https://jhessler.net>. ■

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## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form [here](#) or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at [www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/)**

## CFC, CONTINUED FROM 1

the federal community to donate to favorite charities and “change the world together.” This year’s drive incorporates elements of the virtual and in-person campaigns of years past as well as storytelling, videos and testimonials to inspire donors.

“I look forward to working with the entire CFC team. The Library is among the most generous of all government agencies, so I am confident we will meet, if not exceed, our goal,” Lamolinara said.

For his part, Soares said he has “high hopes of making an impact” in this year’s campaign.

Employees can pledge tax-deductible donations to support medical research, military families, refugees, the homeless, low-income children, animal welfare, global economic development, education, housing and a clean environment, among many other social causes. The CFC campaign includes a cause-of-the-week feature to highlight areas of need.

Established by President John F. Kennedy 1961, the CFC is celebrating its 61st anniversary this year. It is considered one of the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity initiatives, with close to 200 individual campaigns raising millions of dollars in the U.S. and abroad each year.

During the 2021 campaign, federal employees raised more than \$80 million for local, national and international charities in addition to pledging more than 80,000 hours of volunteer service. Federal employees and retirees donated an additional \$670,000 to help people in war-ravaged Ukraine, according to OPM director Kiran A. Ahuja.

The CFC began in six cities with fewer than 50 charities; over time, it expanded to more than 5,600 charities nationwide, including some 2,200 in the national capital area. Since its inception, the CFC has raised more than \$8.6 billion for charities and people in need.

As part of the CFC effort, volunteer groups of federal employees manage individual campaigns, working with nonprofit executives in their communities to raise funds and distribute them to eligible charities.

Last year, the Library exceeded its goal of \$300,000 by raising a total of \$372,193 and securing 173 pledged volunteer hours, thanks to the generosity of its employees. That amount was approximately a 6% increase over the \$350,936 raised in 2020.

This year, as in recent years, staff will be able to pledge their time as volunteers with CFC charities and have those hours count toward the Library’s goal, while retirees can pledge recurring gifts from their annuities.

If you pledge volunteer hours and want to be contacted by the charity to arrange an opportunity to help, make sure to provide your contact information. In recent years, volunteer opportunities have included help with translation, tutoring, budget balancing, event hosting and more.

Employees are encouraged to use the [online pledge portal](#), where donations can be made through payroll deduction, credit and debit cards, PayPal, bank transfers and the contribution of volunteer hours.

Donations can also be made through the CFC Giving app, a text message (text “donate” to 978-487-5678) and a [paper pledge form](#). However, by promoting the use of the electronic pledge system, OPM hopes to increase the CFC’s administrative efficiency.

The Library’s CFC management team is working to ensure everyone stays well informed and to provide the support needed for the Library to surpass this year’s goal.

For more information, contact the Library’s team at [CFC@loc.gov](mailto:CFC@loc.gov), speak to your office keyworker or coordinator or visit the Library’s [CFC intranet site](#). ■

## POET LAUREATE, CONTINUED FROM 1

“Her poems welcome us as intimates, in the language of the familiar, the space of the everyday,” Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said on Sept. 29 of Limón’s work. “It is here where her poems find awe and love and loss, here where they do the necessary work of facing uncertainty and adversity, of helping us remember.”

She added: “Ada shows us how poems can resist and reveal, can unsettle and soothe, in ways that slow us down and focus us, that help and challenge us to see and hear and feel more meaningfully.”

Limón often uses first person in her poems; it is natural to assume that she is the narrator of her poems, that she is writing about herself. In fact, “through the years, I’ve realized the person I am writing for the most is myself,” Limón explained in an article for [oprahdaily.com](http://oprahdaily.com). “I am the one who needs to be reminded that this life

holds all sorts of goodness even when it is often shoved to the edges by the enormity of ugliness or fear.”

Her poems are honest and inviting. When they are funny, they are boldly, completely funny. They don’t skate past bleakness or the tougher elements of being human. They are often suffused with hard-earned hope. And they are so, so vivid and immediate.

Take one of Limón’s most popular poems, “Instructions for Not Giving Up,” which she read at her opening reading. The poem is about the ways that winter becoming spring affects the narrator.

As winter fades, “it’s the greening of the trees/that really gets to me,” the narrator explains, even more than beautiful pale pink cherry tree blossoms or the seductive “fuchsia funnels” the crabapple tree hustles to grow. Instead of early spring’s vibrant, shocking hues, it’s the normal old “green

skin growing over whatever winter did to us” that reassures the narrator. Those “patient, plodding” green leaves are “a return/to the strange idea of continuous living despite/the mess of us, the hurt, the empty.”

It’s that combination of darkness and hope that had the crowd last week applauding strongly after every poem Limón read. She thanked her friends and family after she entered the stage wearing a bright red suit. (“Tonight is not a night to be subdued,” her husband, Lucas Marquardt, told her when she asked him if it was the right outfit for the night.)

Limón cited writer and activist bell hooks’ insight that “healing is an act of communion” and noted that America is tackling some serious problems right now. So “this night doesn’t feel like it’s about me,” she said. “It’s about us.” ■

## CALENDAR

### 11 TUESDAY

**Orientation:** This virtual geography and map orientation will provide an introduction to the world’s largest map library. 3 p.m., [online](http://online). Contact: [mraines@loc.gov](mailto:mraines@loc.gov).

### 12 WEDNESDAY

**Orientation:** This virtual business research orientation will highlight business research resources and strategies for finding current industry information. 1 p.m., [online](http://online). Contact: [nabu@loc.gov](mailto:nabu@loc.gov).

### 13 THURSDAY

**Orientation:** This virtual orientation will provide a basic overview of [Congress.gov](http://Congress.gov). 2 p.m., [online](http://online). Contact: [kgoles@loc.gov](mailto:kgoles@loc.gov).

**Lecture:** In honor of the bicentennial of Brazil’s independence, specialists on the Carvalho Monteiro Collection at the Library and the Oliveira Lima Library at Catholic University will highlight two of the most valuable Luso-Brazilian collections in the world. 3:30 p.m., LJ 119. Contact: [eschreiberbyers@loc.gov](mailto:eschreiberbyers@loc.gov).



**Live at the Library:** The Jefferson Building and its exhibitions will be open for extended hours with happy hour drinks and food available for purchase. 5 to 8:30 p.m., Great Hall. [Tickets required](http://Tickets required). Contact: 7-8000.

### 14 FRIDAY

**Concert:** Banda Magda will open the 2022-23 season of Concerts from the Library of Congress. 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Contact: 7-8000.

### 15 SATURDAY

**Concert:** The Apollon Musagète Quartet will perform with pianist Garrick Ohlsson. 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Contact: 7-8000.

Request ADA accommodations for events five business days in advance at 7-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov). See [www.loc.gov/events](http://www.loc.gov/events)