INSIDE

Zwaard to Lead Service Unit
Kate Zwaard has been appointed acting associate librarian for Discovery and Preservation Services, effective Jan. 16.

PAGE 3

COVID Measures Updated
In response to the highly infectious omicron variant of COVID-19, the Library has updated its mandatory on-site precautions.

PAGE 4

Concert Footage Discovered
A never-before-seen 1969 home movie of the Rolling Stones, Carlos Santana and other superstars has been found in the collections.

PAGE 5

Q&A: Larry Sarratt
The public services assistant in the Law Library’s Global Legal Research Directorate recounts his 17-year Library career.

PAGE 6

GERSHWIN PRIZE

Lionel Richie to Receive Gershwin Prize for Popular Song
PBS to broadcast special television concert honoring Richie on May 17.

Lionel Richie

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced yesterday that pop music icon Lionel Richie will be the next recipient of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. Richie will be honored with an all-star tribute concert in Washington, D.C., that will be broadcast nationally on PBS stations.

A songwriting superstar of the first order, Richie is known for his megahits such as “Endless Love”; “Lady”; “Truly”; “All Night Long”; “Penny Lover”; “Stuck on You”; “Hello”; “Say You, Say Me”; and “Dancing on the Ceiling.” He also co-wrote one of the most important pop songs in history, “We Are the World,” for USA for Africa.

His song catalog includes his early work with the Commodores, when he developed a groundbreaking style that defied genre categories, penning smash hits such as “Three Times a Lady,” “Still” and “Easy.” Richie achieved the incredible distinction of writing No. 1 songs for 11 consecutive years. Beyond his own impressive
NOTICES

CORRECTION
In a story on page 4, last week’s issue omitted to note that Lucia Alma Wolf of the Latin American, Caribbean and European Division edited “The Unexpected Dante: Perspectives on the Divine Comedy.”

TELEWORK APPLICATION WEBINARS
The deadline to submit telework applications is Jan. 19. To facilitate this process, the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) has been hosting webinars to demonstrate the automated telework application to employees, supervisors, and telework service-unit liaisons.

Final sessions for employees and supervisors will take place on Jan. 18 as shown below. No reservation is needed; simply click on one of the times and log on. Sessions for liaisons were recorded earlier. Recordings for each audience (employees, supervisors, liaisons) will be made available after Jan. 18.

Questions? Write to AskHCD or contact your supervisor.

Jan. 18
Employees
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Supervisors
2 p.m.

CONKLIN TO ADDRESS WOMEN’S FORUM
Jan. 27, 2 p.m.
Online
The Women’s Forum for Growth and Networking, part of the Library of Congress Professional Association, invites staff to hear from a senior-level Library role model. Judith Conklin, the Library’s chief information officer, will present “How I Use Positives and Negatives in My Career.” Conklin will share her story and offer insights and advice that staff can apply to their own careers. All are welcome. Join Zoom meeting here.

Questions? Send an email to womensforumboard@loc.gov.

HELP CONNECT FORMER STAFF TO THE LIBRARY

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ALUMNI NETWORK

Share the link to the new Library of Congress Alumni Network

Questions or ideas? Contact alumni@loc.gov

www.loc.gov/alumni

GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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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
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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 Jan. 28 Gazette is Wednesday, Jan. 19.

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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Questions? Send an email to womensforumboard@loc.gov.
Kate Zwaard has been appointed acting associate librarian for Discovery and Preservation Services (DPS), effective Jan. 16. Zwaard, who is currently the Library’s digital strategy director, will serve on an interim basis as the first associate librarian for DPS, one of two new service units within the Library Collections and Services Group (LCSG).

The new service units — DPS and Researcher and Collections Services — were created under the LCSG reorganization at the end of fiscal 2021 to strengthen and streamline the acquisition, stewardship, description and sharing of the Library’s collections. Each service unit will be led by an associate librarian, who will have a seat on the Library’s Executive Committee.

As the acting associate librarian for DPS, Zwaard will lead the service unit that is responsible for continually improving discovery of the Library’s vast and unparalleled collections and serving as steward of those collections by facilitating ever-expanding metadata, multiformat digitization and the preservation of digital and physical collections. DPS directorates under Zwaard’s supervision include the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access, Digital Services and Preservation directorates.

“LCSG must continuously adapt its national leadership role in librarianship with agile forward thinking,” Robin Dale, deputy librarian for LCSG, said. “Kate’s experience makes her exceptionally well positioned to serve in this key role and work with the LCSG directorates to guide essential advancements as collections and researcher needs evolve.”

She added: “I’m so delighted Kate is joining LCSG in this role and at this time. DPS has many significant projects underway or beginning soon — the launch of the “Digital Collections Strategy 2022–2026”; the Library Collections Access Platform (L-CAP) project to replace Voyager; the continued development and fruition of BIBFRAME; the evolution of descriptive metadata; and the development of the Library’s new five-year digitization strategy, just to name a few — and her leadership and focus will allow us to collectively move forward on these goals.”

As the director of digital strategy since 2018, Zwaard has worked closely with all areas of LCSG in support of the collections, their discovery and their nationwide use. Previously, she served as chief of the Library’s National Digital Initiatives program, where she established the LC Labs group to enable experimentation and innovation. Her first role at the Library was as software development manager on the Library’s digital repository development team.

Prior to joining the Library, Zwaard led product development for the digital preservation, content authentication and descriptive and preservation metadata system components for the U.S. Government Publishing Office.

Kate Zwaard

“As the Library and LCSG move forward in accomplishing the Library’s goals and following its digital strategy, Kate brings a passion for the mission of DPS and a unique and broad reservoir of experience in digital innovation, digital repository development, metadata management and digital preservation,” Dale concluded.

Kate Zwaard Appointed Acting Head of New Service Unit

ONE YEAR OUT: HISTORIANS CONSIDER JAN. 6

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden (from left) moderated a conversation with historians Jon Meacham and Doris Kearns Goodwin in the Cannon Caucus Room last week in commemoration of Jan. 6.
Library Updates Mandatory On-Site COVID Precautions

The Library continues to provide on-site access for researchers and visitors thanks to successful precautions against COVID-19 that have been developed, updated and followed throughout the pandemic.

Right now, the highly infectious omicron variant of COVID-19 continues to spread at a high rate, including in the Washington, D.C., area. The Library has not been immune to the surge. Between Jan. 4 and 11, when the Health Services Division (HSD) released its most recent statistics, 96 Library employees reported symptoms or clinical diagnoses of COVID-19 or positive tests results.

To address this situation, the Library is implementing updated precautions until COVID-19 transmission decreases. They are as follows:

- Staff must wear masks at all times when working in shared spaces where they may not see another individual approaching their workspaces.
- Staff must maintain at least 12 feet of distance from one another when eating or drinking. This is double the distance that employees must maintain when masked. Furthermore, no socializing or meeting during meals is permitted. Employees can eat and drink in the Madison Café but must maintain at least 12 feet of distancing and mask when not actively eating or drinking. Tables cannot be moved from their distanced positions.
- Staff are encouraged to use a KN95 or KF94 mask if they are able or double masking with a surgical mask under a cloth mask. These must be replaced by the more protective KN95 or KF94 or double masking with a surgical mask under a cloth mask.
- The omicron variant acts differently from previous COVID variants, according to HSD, which explains the huge spike in cases. At first, it replicates quickly in an infected individual’s nose. Vaccinated individuals are getting sick because they are infected before their immune system can catch up. For a period of time, they can pass the infection along to others because of the “viral load” in the upper respiratory system (nose, sinuses, throat) that builds before they recognize they have symptoms or were infected.
- But the immune system responds quickly in vaccinated individuals and neutralizes the threat. As a result, infections in vaccinated individuals are often limited to symptoms commonly associated with a cold: runny nose, congestion, sore throat and headache. In unvaccinated individuals, the virus can take a much greater hold quickly and migrate into the lower respiratory system (lungs) before the body is able to mount a defense. This can lead to a more severe disease. This also means that unvaccinated individuals can spread the virus for more days than those who have been vaccinated, because their viral loads remain higher for longer.

Masks and distancing are still effective in stopping COVID-19 transmission, HSD emphasizes. Multiple studies have shown that masks can decrease spread by up to 53 percent. And if the virus can’t get to individuals because of distancing, it can’t make them sick.

Staff should stay home if they are sick or have any of symptoms, even if they think it’s just a cold and even if they are vaccinated. That is key to helping contain the spread.

For more information, see HSD’s frequently asked questions and the staff COVID-19 webpage.

REMINDER: REPORT COVID SYMPTOMS, EXPOSURE

All Library employees, including those working remotely, who have experienced symptoms of COVID-19, received a positive COVID test result or had close contact with someone with COVID-19 are required to send a message to their supervisors and copy the Health Services Division (HSD) at HSDCOVID-check-in@loc.gov.

The email to HSD should include the employee’s name in the subject line and a reachable email address and telephone number in the body of the message. HSD will follow up to ensure that affected employees remain off-site for the appropriate amount of time and confirm that contact tracing is not necessary.
Newly Found Footage Features Notorious Rock Concert

Superstars headlined the 1969 California show marred by violence.

BY MIKE MASHON

Here at the Library, we’re dedicated to the acquisition, description, preservation and accessibility of our film, video and sound recording collections regardless of perceived “worth.” We really do want to make it all available for future generations. So, we don’t necessarily prioritize beloved classics over, say, a refrigerator ad or the song “Fido Is a Hot Dog Now.”

But every so often, something comes along that attracts a lot of attention — such as a never-before-seen home movie from the 1969 Altamont free concert in California, in which the Hells Angels, hired to provide security, stabbed a fan to death during a confrontation over a gun.

Not long ago, my colleague John Snelson was working on the Prelinger Collection of ephemeral films and came across two reels of silent 8 mm reversal positive — a common home movie format — featuring the notorious concert. The concert was a major cultural turning point of the era, and the heart of the Maysles Brothers’ 1970 documentary “Gimme Shelter.” But this new find was home footage from the event that had never seen the light of day, and it’s now available for viewing on the National Screening Room. (There is no audio, so don’t try to fix your sound.)

And as is so often the case, the tale of how this remarkable video emerged from a mass of unprocessed films is a pretty good story on its own. It starts in 1996 when archivist and collector Rick Prelinger acquired a cache of reels from Palmer Films, a San Francisco company that was going out of business. He added them to his burgeoning film collection, which the Library acquired in 2002.

A press release at the time predicted that it would take several years before the Library would be in a position to provide access to the roughly 200,000 films. As it turns out, that was optimistic — we are still making steady progress on the collection 19 years later.

The handwritten note on the film leader of the newly discovered reels reads “Stones in the Park,” so that was the title John gave them for our inventory. When I saw that, I immediately thought it could be a home movie of the July 5, 1969, Rolling Stones Hyde Park concert held in London. But it could also be a copy of a documentary of the same name, which would make the find considerably less interesting.

I sent the reels for digitization by our film preservation laboratory. A couple of days later, I heard from some very excited colleagues that the scan wasn’t the Hyde Park show. It was from the Altamont concert, and it definitely wasn’t footage from “Gimme Shelter.” There’s a lot more in this home movie.

Although the footage is silent, we were thrilled to see close-up views of concert performers who were cut from “Gimme Shelter,” such as Carlos Santana and Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. It was especially great to see Gram Parsons fronting the Flying Burrito Brothers, since you only see the back of his head in the film. Even better, there are good shots of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards offstage watching him perform.

The second reel is from the Stones’ evening performance. While it captures some of the chaos so memorably seen in “Gimme Shelter,” it doesn’t add to our understanding of the death of fan Meredith Hunter at the hands of the Hells Angels.

For more about the Prelinger Collections, check out this blog post. ▪

Mick Jagger (in red) and Keith Richards (in sunglasses) offstage at the Altamont concert in newly discovered footage.
I felt I was a good candidate. I also saw the position as both a challenge and an advancement for me professionally. I applied, and 17 years later I am still here.

I’m responsible for a broad range of legal collections maintenance and management tasks in the Law Library Reading Room, and my position affords me the opportunity to demonstrate initiative in recognizing and solving problems. For example, I identify and resolve issues associated with items being integrated into or deaccessioned from the reading room; sort, organize and shelve collections; and maintain information packets and research guides for the reading room. I also withdraw materials that need to be relabeled and rebound and compile statistics for the reading room.

These responsibilities, along with diplomatically assisting patrons and co-workers, make for an extremely gratifying job.

What are some of your standout projects?

There are two contributions of note that come to mind. First, I was able to create space several years ago in the Law Library Reading Room to accommodate new collections and the gathering body of reference resources that need to be housed and stored in the reading room.

Second, as president of the Daniel A.P. Murray African American Cultural Association at the Library, I worked alongside our board members to place a bench on the grounds of the Jefferson Building in 2017 in memory of Murray, who was the first African American assistant Librarian of Congress.

It was the first ever bench to be placed on government property in memory of someone, and it was approved by Congress with the aid of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. The bench was sponsored by the Toni Morrison Society as part of its Bench by the Road Project, which recognizes African Americans who fought, in various ways, to improve the lot of Black people throughout U.S. history.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

In my free time, I love shopping, especially thrifting. I am always amazed at some of the incredible finds I discover in thrift stores. I am also very involved in my church. I serve in various capacities of caring for our members to include teaching, preaching and providing a live weekly spiritual direction forum on Facebook.

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

I am a licensed minister and certified spiritual director. I also work as an administrative assistant at a funeral home on Saturdays.
OBITUARY

James La Roche Godwin

James Godwin of Pittsboro, North Carolina, died on Sept. 13 of heart failure at age 78. Over more than three decades at the Library, he acted as a critical bridge between an established but changing library world and the newly emerging information technology world. Godwin was born on Feb. 4, 1943, in Jamaica, New York, to Owen Godwin and Isabel Symons Godwin. Raised in Great Neck, New York, he earned a B.A. at the University of Pennsylvania and graduate degrees at Indiana University and the University of Chicago. In 1970, he was selected as a special recruit at the Library and moved his family to the Washington, D.C., area to begin a distinguished career of government service. Working closely with Library automation pioneers Henriette Avram and Lucia Rather, Godwin contributed his vision and leadership to developing, programming and implementing the Library’s first online cataloging system (Automated In-Process Information File) and its first information input, update and retrieval system (Multiple Use MARC System). Both systems honored upgraded Anglo-American cataloging rules and Machine-Readable Form of Bibliographic Information cataloging rules. Godwin also designed and implemented the powerful Component Word bibliographic indexing and retrieval system, which provided detailed search capabilities down to the field and subfield indicator level of a MARC bibliographic record. Some of Godwin’s software routines have been implemented by the commercial world. Starting in 1978, Godwin supervised several information technology offices within the Automated Systems Office, precursor to today’s Office of the Chief Information Officer, and his influence in bridging the library and IT worlds is difficult to overstate. Godwin was known for support of staff, especially in IT education, while also expecting excellence, hard work and high ethical behavior from colleagues. Upon retiring in 2005, he moved to Pittsboro. In addition to his outstanding automated bibliophilic accomplishments at the Library, he was a great lover of nature, an avid researcher of family history and a zealous gardener. Godwin is survived by his brother, Will Godwin; his sister, Mary Volz Peacock (Ron Peacock); his daughters, Laura Jaya Godwin and Melissa La Roche Godwin; four grandchildren; three nieces; two nephews; and their families. The family will hold a private service in the spring.

NEWS

Kluge Staff Fellowship Applications Invited

The John W. Kluge Center staff fellowship annually provides up to two highly qualified Library staff members with 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.

What are the terms of the appointment?

The staff fellow is detailed to the Kluge Center for six months, the duration of the fellowship.

What topics can be researched?

Research projects can concentrate on any topic in the fields of human sciences, such as humanities, social sciences or law. All projects must be supported by Library collections.

Who is eligible?

All Library employees with permanent or indefinite status (excluding indefinites with not-to-exceed dates and Kluge Center staff) and five years of continuous service can apply. Staff can hold the fellowship only once in any seven-year period.

Are salary and benefits maintained?

Yes. The fellow is compensated at the level equivalent to his or her current salary, and benefits and leave are maintained.

Is a fellow’s current job retained?

Yes. Fellows maintain a lien on their present positions.

Apply online.

For more information, contact Michael Stratmoen at mist@loc.gov.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/
music career, Richie has mentored young artists as a judge on ABC’s “American Idol” for the past four seasons and is set to return for the show’s 20th season.

“In so many ways, this national honor was made for Lionel Richie, whose music has entertained and inspired us — and helped strengthen our global connections,” Hayden said. “Lionel Richie’s unforgettable work has shown us that music can bring us together. Even when we face problems and disagree on issues, songs can show us what we have in common.”

Richie’s songs are part of the fabric of pop music and American culture. The Tuskegee, Alabama, native has sold more than 125 million albums worldwide. He has won an Oscar, a Golden Globe, four Grammy Awards and the distinction of MusicCares Person of the Year in 2016.

In 2017, Richie was a Kennedy Center honoree; in March 2018, he put his hand and footprints in cement at the TCL Chinese Theatre IMAX in Hollywood, one of the oldest awards in Hollywood. He has recently received the Ivor Novello PRS for Music Special International Award.

“This is truly an honor of a lifetime, and I am so grateful to be receiving the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song,” Richie said. “I am proud to be joining all the other previous artists, who I also admire and am a fan of their music.”

Richie sold out arenas worldwide with a set list of his brightest and best anthems on his “All the Hits, All Night Long” tour. In recent years, he also headlined festivals including Bonnaroo, Outside Lands and Glastonbury, drawing the festival’s biggest crowd ever with more than 200,000 attendees.

Richie took fans on a spectacular musical journey with his latest album, “Live from Las Vegas,” along with his most recent tour, “Hello,” which kicked off in summer 2019. The album, released on Aug. 16, 2019, was No. 1 on the Billboard Artist 100 chart.

Richie launched his Las Vegas headlining residency show, “Lionel Richie—All the Hits,” in April 2016. He recently extended a “Back to Las Vegas” residency at Wynn Las Vegas’ Encore Theater with a 12-show engagement in 2022.

Bestowed in recognition of the legendary songwriting team of George and Ira Gershwin, the Gershwin Prize recognizes a living musical artist’s lifetime achievement in promoting the genre of song as a vehicle of entertainment, information, inspiration and cultural understanding.

Previous recipients are Paul Simon, Stevie Wonder, Sir Paul McCartney, songwriting duo Burt Bacharach and the late Hal David, Carole King, Billy Joel, Willie Nelson, Smokey Robinson, Tony Bennett, Emilio and Gloria Estefan and Garth Brooks.

Recipients are selected by the Librarian of Congress in consultation with a board of scholars, producers, performers, songwriters and other music specialists, including curators from the Library’s Music Division, American Folklife Center and National Audio–Visual Conservation Center.

Richie will receive the Gershwin Prize at an all-star tribute concert in Washington, D.C., on March 9. PBS will broadcast the concert – “Lionel Richie: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song” – on May 17 on PBS stations, PBS.org and the PBS video app. It will also be broadcast to U.S. Department of Defense locations around the world via the American Forces Network.

“Lionel Richie: The Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song” is a co-production of WETA Washington, D.C.; Bounce, a division of Concord Music Group; and the Library of Congress. Major funding for the broadcast is provided by The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, PBS and public television viewers. Wells Fargo is the presenting sponsor. Additional funding is provided by The Ira and Leonore Gershwin Fund and The Leonore S. Gershwin Trust for the benefit of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board; Michael Strunsky; AARP; Universal Music Group; the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; and William C. Burton. Air transportation is provided by United Airlines.

Visit the Gershwin Prize webpage for more details.

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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 at http://staff.loc.gov/sites-rules-and-regulations/

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/ or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540–1060.

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**THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN WEBCAST**

“Your TSP Account — What to Think About When Nearing Retirement or Considering Leaving the Government” is open to all federal employees and members of the uniformed services. Program topics include Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) distribution options, withdrawals, investment risks and fees, assessment of financial professionals and issues to consider when moving funds from TSP.

There is no need to register for the webinar. To attend, simply click [this link](https://www.loc.gov/askhcd/).

For questions about your TSP retirement, go to www.tsp.gov or call (877) 968-3778. For technical webcast problems, send an email to Webmaster@sec.gov.

Staff can also direct questions to the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) at (202) 707-5627 or AskHCD.