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Internship and Fellowship Programs

Members of the 2020 Junior Fellows class highlighted their work on July 24.

## Junior Fellows Display Their Findings to the World

Through an online portal, fellows showcased unique collections they uncovered this summer.

**BY DEANNA MCCRAY-JAMES**

Traditionally, graduate and undergraduate students in the Library's Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program have the opportunity to view and gain insight into the workings of a major cultural institution, develop new skills, conduct research and get hands-on with some of the greatest collections in the world.

As with many things affected by the new COVID-19 normal, this year's fellowships went online. Although interns were not able to come to the Library's Capitol Hill campus, fellows still experienced many of the program's benefits virtually. From across the 22 states where the 40 fellows worked for

10 weeks, they had wide-ranging access to staff, collections and professional development opportunities, and they completed myriad research projects.

On July 24, they showcased their work in a pilot online display reflecting the spirit of the half-day junior fellows exhibit that year after year attracts hundreds of Library staff and public visitors. Through an online portal (<https://go.usa.gov/xfQCv>), fellows presented a total of 27 projects using videos, infographics and other techniques.

The projects include an exploration of a 16th-century Hebrew book from the Library's collection that was printed and publicly burned

**JUNIOR FELLOWS, CONTINUED ON 7**

# NOTICES

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at (202) 707-0033.

Shayerah Akhtar  
Craig Andrews  
Sharif Adenan  
Lynette Brown  
Eric Clark

Laurie Harris  
Sharron Jones  
Terri Harris-Wandix  
Donna Williams

## COVID-19 UPDATE

The Library's Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members reporting symptoms, exposures, clinical diagnosis or positive test results for COVID-19. On July 24, HSD announced that six employees reported symptoms associated with COVID-19 last week. None of the employees had been in the Library recently, so contact tracing was not necessary.

Some employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed to have COVID-19, but, out of caution, the Library is monitoring all reports of symptoms. In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD is notifying their close work contacts and requesting cleaning and disinfecting of the areas affected. The same process is being followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.

Between Feb. 2, when HSD started monitoring cases, and July 23, 85 staff members or Library contractors reported symptoms, and 18 tested positive for the virus responsible for COVID-19. Thirteen of the 18 were employees – less than one-half of 1 percent of the total Library staff. Of those testing positive, only two employees had been in Library buildings since April. HSD has also performed contact tracing for 328 individuals.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdtv5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdtvQ> (public-facing staff web page)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

If ever there was a year for the Library to celebrate System Administrators Appreciation Day, the fourth Friday every July, it's 2020. The Library's sys admins and the rest of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) have turned cartwheels and moved mountains this year – midwifing us into full telework, shifting all the Library's events online, galloping copyright modernization forward – all while doing their usual invisible work keeping us humming. Thanks sys admins and OCIO, and Happy SysAdmins Appreciation Day!

Hope O'Keefe  
Office of the General Counsel

# 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.

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Aug. 14 Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 5.

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).

# Library Reveals Author Lineup for Book Festival

The interactive, online-only event will dive into timely topics.

The Library of Congress last week announced the author lineup and special topics for the 2020 National Book Festival – an interactive, online celebration that will feature new books by more than 120 of the nation’s most renowned writers, poets and artists.

The 20th annual festival, whose theme is “American Ingenuity,” will take place during the week-end of Sept. 25-27 at [www.loc.gov/bookfest](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest). There, virtual stages will offer on-demand videos; live author chats and discussions; options to personalize attendees’ own journeys through the festival with particular themes; and book-buying possibilities through the festival’s official bookseller, Politics and Prose, with a limited number of commemorative bookplates signed by authors.

The Library also is in discussion with broadcast partners to ensure broad access to the festival.

New this year is an opportunity for festivalgoers to dive deeper into timely topics engaged by many books across the festival’s stages.

They are invited to follow three newsworthy threads that weave throughout the festival:

- “Fearless Women” – books by and about women trailblazers.
- “Hearing Black Voices” – books that showcase Black voices across genres, affirming their contributions to American culture.
- “Democracy” – books that assess the state of democratic principles in America and around the globe.

Another new feature added is a virtual stage called Family, Food

and Field, which will include authors whose books cover such topics as food, home, sports, television and current issues, such as the Me Too movement.

Last week, the Library also revealed the festival poster,



The poster for the 2020 National Book Festival.

designed by Rodrigo Corral Studio and Tyler Comrie with illustration and animation by Justin Metz. It is available for download at <https://go.usa.gov/xfn3E>.

Among the authors scheduled to appear at the festival are:

- Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Colson Whitehead, who will receive the Library’s Prize for American Fiction.
- Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will discuss her new

memoir, “Hell and Other Destinations.”

- National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Jason Reynolds, talking about his book “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You,” which he co-wrote with Ibram X. Kendi.
- “Today” show co-host Jenna Bush Hager, discussing “Everything Beautiful in Its Time,” a collection of stories about her grandparents, Barbara and George H.W. Bush, and her book club “Read with Jenna.”
- Chelsea Clinton, talking about her new book for young readers, “She Persisted in Sports: American Olympians Who Changed the Game.”
- John Grisham, master of the legal thriller, holding forth on his latest books, “Camino Winds” and “The Guardians.”
- Melinda Gates, discussing her new book, “The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World.”
- Mo Willems, creator of “The Pigeon” books, “Because” and other bestsellers for children, exploring his work and creative process.
- “Da Vinci Code” author Dan Brown, making his children’s book debut with “Wild Symphony.”

Ibram X. Kendi and Saeed Jones, discussing ways to confront racism and bigotry, as described in Kendi’s book “How to Be an Antiracist” and Jones’ memoir, “How We Fight for Our Lives.”

Rebecca Bogggs Roberts and Lucinda Robb, talking about their new book, “The Suffragist Playbook.”

Thomas Frank and Christopher Caldwell, discussing “The Road to Populism” and their related books.

A full list of participants is available at [www.loc.gov/bookfest](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest). ■

# NLS Preparing to Expand Foreign-Language Offerings

The Marrakesh Treaty facilitates cross-border exchange of accessible books.

BY MATTHEW FIELD AND MARK LAYMAN

Nearly seven years after the United States signed the Marrakesh Treaty, the final legal steps are being taken to allow the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) to expand its foreign-language offerings by participating in the international exchange of accessible-format books.

Until now, NLS could distribute braille and audiobooks only to U.S. residents and American citizens living abroad. The Marrakesh Treaty – formally known as the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled – changes that. Countries where the treaty is in force agree to relax their copyright laws to allow organizations such as NLS to import and export braille and audiobooks.

“Our participation in the Marrakesh Treaty will open up a world of books to our patrons who read in languages other than, or in addition to, English,” NLS director Karen Keninger said. “We need more books in Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese – many different languages – and this will help fill that need.”

The impetus for the Marrakesh Treaty was the recognition of a “book famine” for blind and visually impaired people worldwide – especially those who live in developing countries. The World Blind Union estimates that less than 10 percent of all published materials are accessible to blind or visually impaired people. The treaty’s objective is “to increase access to books, magazines and other printed materials for people with print disabilities ... by making it



**Mark Cassayre (left), chargé d'affaires of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, presented the United States' Marrakesh Treaty ratification document to Francis Gurry, WIPO director general, on Feb. 8, 2019.**

easier for accessible copies to be created and shared across international borders.”

So far, 69 countries have become contracting parties to the treaty, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which administers it. The U.S. did that on Feb. 8, 2019. The treaty went into force in the U.S. on May 8, 2019, but some legislative details still had to be resolved.

Last year's Library of Congress Technical Corrections Act revised NLS' enabling legislation to allow the international exchange of accessible texts by “authorized entities” such as NLS. Now, the Library is completing final publication in the Federal Register of a regulation implementing the Marrakesh Treaty. It comes, fittingly, as the U.S. commemorates the 30th anniversary of passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Besides facilitating the cross-border exchange of books, the Marrakesh Treaty benefits print-disabled readers in the U.S. in other

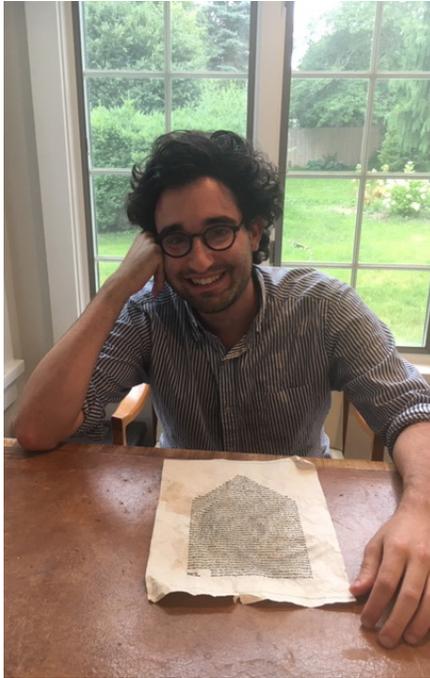
ways. The 1996 law that allowed NLS to reproduce books in accessible formats without getting the copyright holder's permission didn't cover musical scores. Now it does – a boon to NLS' already-world-class braille music collection. And NLS has adopted the Marrakesh Treaty's definition of who is eligible to receive service, making it easier for people with reading disabilities such as dyslexia to benefit from the program.

Before its patrons can fully share the benefits of the treaty, NLS has to work out some technical issues, such as how to make other countries' digital audiobook files compatible with NLS equipment, and other details.

“We still have some work to do toward seamless availability of materials across borders, but for NLS this is another step toward our goal of assuring that all may read,” Keninger said.

More information: <https://go.usa.gov/xfrhS> ■

## QUESTION & ANSWER



David Kahn

### August Kahn

*August Kahn graduated from Pitzer College in the spring. He is completing an internship this week as a junior fellow in the Hebraic Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division.*

#### **Tell us a little about your project.**

I have been working from my home in Barrington, Rhode Island, with my project mentor, Ann Brener of the Hebraic Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED), to expand digital resources for a collection of 16th-century Hebrew books. More specifically, I have been converting the existing finding aid for the collection, currently in PDF format, into a LibGuide compatible with the Library's web platform to ensure continued access to scholars and researchers looking to find these materials.

Working with these titles has exposed me to fascinating history. The printing of Hebrew books was quickly embraced by Jewish writers, scholars and religious leaders alike. By the 16th century, Italy, the Ottoman Empire and Eastern Europe had become hubs for printing of the books. Some of the most influential works in the

Jewish canon were first published and printed during this period. Producing new material at a faster, more efficient pace allowed for wider distribution of these texts, both among Jewish readers and Christian Hebraists. Currently, 675 Hebrew books from the period find a home in the Hebraic Section's collections.

#### **Describe a typical day.**

At the beginning of each day, I work either on personal projects, such as putting together materials for the junior fellows display day, or on expanding the finding aid into a LibGuide. Twice daily, I meet with my Junior Fellows Program mentor, Amal Morsy, and my fellow AMED interns. With all our meetings and joint projects, we've developed a strong sense of camaraderie. Amal has been a great resource in providing a framework for the other interns and me, ensuring that this virtual internship is as productive as it can be. Twice a week, interns have also been attending lectures and information sessions hosted by the Internship and Fellowship Programs division. Through them, I have been able to get to know some of the fellows who work outside of my division.

#### **What have you discovered of special interest?**

The legacy of 16th-century Hebrew books is a fascinating area of study. I've been especially interested in a particular title, "Lehem Yehudah," a commentary of the revered Jewish text "Pirkei Avot."

"Lehem Yehudah" was burned by the Catholic Church during the 1553 burning of Jewish books in St. Mark's Square in Venice. The author of the text was forced to rewrite the book completely from his own memory. Later, he was able to purchase a copy of his own book from a non-Jewish

person who snatched a copy from the flames. In his commentary, he writes that he had written the second copy better than the first.

#### **What attracted you to the Junior Fellows program?**

While I had never been to the Library of Congress in person, I was drawn initially to the Library for its unique dedication to disseminating information and knowledge not just to scholars, but also to the public. As a junior fellow, I've been able to dedicate my summer to expanding learning and research opportunities for the public. The goal of providing access to the world's greatest literary and scholastic contributions to all people is an inspiring mission, one I am lucky to support as an intern.

#### **What has your experience been like so far?**

I am so grateful for all of the work that the facilitators of this internship have done to ensure that this summer was meaningful. Although I am disappointed not to have had the chance to visit the Library, I have been exposed to the fascinating world of 16th-century Hebrew books through the generosity and guidance of Ann Brener, who opened the door to an interest I never knew I had.

#### **What do you plan to do next?**

In January, assuming it becomes safe to travel, I will move to Berlin through the Fulbright Scholar Program, where I will teach English and research identity formation in Muslim and Jewish communities in Germany. My work as a junior fellow has taught me the importance of a life-long commitment to researching and preserving information, one that I hope to bring with me in every project I take on. ■

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

## Prosser Gifford

Prosser Gifford, founding director of the Library's Office of Scholarly Programs and of the John W. Kluge Center, died peacefully at his home in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, on July 5. He was 91.

Gifford was born in New York City and earned degrees from Yale University (1951), Merton College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar (1953) and Harvard Law School (1956) as well as a Ph.D. in history from Yale University (1964).

He was the first dean of the faculty at Amherst College from 1967 to 1979, where he helped spearhead the opening of admissions to women. He then joined former Oxford colleague James H. Billington as his deputy director at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Together, they gathered hundreds of outstanding scholars from around the world to collaborate on research, writing and discussions of cultural, national and world issues. He served at the Wilson Center from 1980 to 1988.

In 1990, Billington, by then the Librarian of Congress, brought Gifford to the Library, where he served as the founding director of the Office of Scholarly Programs. Gifford worked with divisions across the Library to help develop a wide range of intellectual programs, such as conferences, publications and exhibitions, for which he often helped raise the funds.

When Billington secured the Kluge benefaction as part of the celebration of the Library's 200th anniversary, Gifford delayed his retirement to oversee the launching of the Kluge Center in 2000.

Working closely with the Librarian, he directed the design and construction of the facility, conceptualized and initiated the programs for early career fellows and senior scholars, and brought the first scholars to the center, including Jaroslav Pelikan and John Hope Franklin – both of whom were later named Kluge Prize recipients. He



Cecelia Rogers

designed and directed the prize, from conceptualization through the solicitation of nominations from across the world, the multilevel selection process and the award celebration.

Gifford also created the Kissinger Program that brought some of the best minds in foreign policy to the Library, initiated the program that brings young scholars from British universities to the Library for research and conceived the Library of Congress staff fellowship. In short, the foundational programs of today's Kluge Center are the result of Gifford's vision and indefatigable work. He retired from the Library in 2005.

Gifford shared Billington's love of poetry. The Poetry and Literature Center became part of the Office of Scholarly Programs and then

the John W. Kluge Center during Gifford's tenure. The center flourished under his direction, and Gifford helped the Librarian select the poet laureate of the United States, facilitated the laureate's programs and secured additional poetry programs, including the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry.

Gifford was an excellent colleague and a gentle and generous spirit, and those who knew him will always smile at the memory of his distinctive laugh, which frequently rang through the Library buildings, announcing his presence.

His wife, Deedee, passed away in 2010. Gifford is survived by his three daughters, Barbara, Paula and Heidi, their spouses and six grandchildren. ■

### 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/](http://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.

## JUNIOR FELLOWS, CONTINUED FROM 1

in Venice; a digitization project to help researchers gain access to academic journals published on the African continent; collaboration with other government agencies to create a digital community of practice for program and project management; creation of a Story Map about Titlantli, an omnipresent narrator and one-time inhabitant of the great Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán; and a braille digitization project to make music materials accessible to blind and print-disabled patrons.

The new format – although a creative workaround to address the pandemic – expands the reach of the projects, allowing anyone from around the world to view the fellows' research. Unlike the physical displays of past years, this year's display will remain on the Library's website.

"The work products the team of junior fellows and their project mentors and colleagues developed are vast and rich and will be enduring," said Kimberly Powell, chief of the Internship and Fellowship Programs (IFP) division. "We are learning so much about our collective abilities this summer. It is refreshing to see the fruits of our labor."

With partners including the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Human Capital Directorate and the Librarian's Office, IFP developed a program that provided each of the fellows with virtual access to a standard Library workstation, including Skype for Business and Webex accounts, to facilitate communication, mentoring, virtual tours and professional development.

Chelsey Brown is a rising senior studying information technology and history at the University of Missouri. Working with Laverne Page in the African Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED) this summer, she helped to expand access to electronic resources at the Library on African studies.

For a LibGuide, she examined 1,700 databases available through

the Library's e-resources online catalog (<https://go.usa.gov/xfb4d>) that contain information relevant to African studies but are not accessible through the African studies link on the catalog page.

"The purpose of my project was to open up the e-resources catalog to more African studies researchers and draw attention to underused databases at the Library," Brown said.

The highlight of her summer was encountering a database detailing 35,000 slaving expeditions, which she presented in her display.

"That was the proudest moment I have had during my time working at the Library," Brown said. "Its inclusion in my LibGuide will allow researchers, students and the public a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of people in world history."

Selena Qian, a rising senior at Duke University studying visual and media studies and computer science, interned in the Digital Strategy Directorate. She created interactive visualizations of Sanborn fire insurance maps and datasets from LC Labs' Newspaper Navigator project, which draws visual content from historical newspapers in *Chronicling America*.

She stayed in touch with her mentor through regular check-ins. "She made it easy to reach out to her if I had any questions, and she helped me connect to other people with expertise in areas she didn't have," Qian said.

Qian interacted with the directorate's four other fellows through weekly e-meetings. "We talked together about our projects and what was going on. It was great to debrief and have some part of what working in person may have been like," she said.

Frances (Franky) Moore is a rising senior at Carnegie Mellon University and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry. She interned in the Preservation Research and Testing Division (PRTD), focusing on core PRTD work to preserve objects

and make sure they are safe when exhibited.

Specifically, she analyzed the effects of LED lights on a sample compared to an alternative light source and light sources within rooms. Her supervisors conducted preliminary testing, after which she identified trends to determine how different sources affect objects differently.

Moore joked that she doesn't think she will ever again "be able to walk through any room with lights on without thinking about this project and why people choose those lights for illumination."

This year's display-day organizing team was led by Julie Biggs of the Conservation Division and Catalina Gomez of the Hispanic Division.

Creating the display was "an adventure and an experiment," Biggs said – part of its success lies in the fact that "you can come back to visit as often as you like."

Gomez said the virtual format presented a few challenges. But, in the end, she concluded, it reflects the "ingenuity of the Library and its ability to adjust and respond to the challenges of the day while still upholding its mission." ■

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## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT DEADLINE

If you are required to file an annual financial disclosure statement, you must do so by Aug. 13. Many thanks to those who have already filed. For those who haven't, please note that this deadline is final. The Library already granted the maximum extension allowed under law. If you file online, your statement must be submitted by Aug. 13 at 11:59 p.m. If you file on paper, your statement must be postmarked by Aug. 13. If you need log-in assistance or have any questions, contact the Office of the General Counsel at [ethics@loc.gov](mailto:ethics@loc.gov).