GAZETTE
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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A weekly publication for staff

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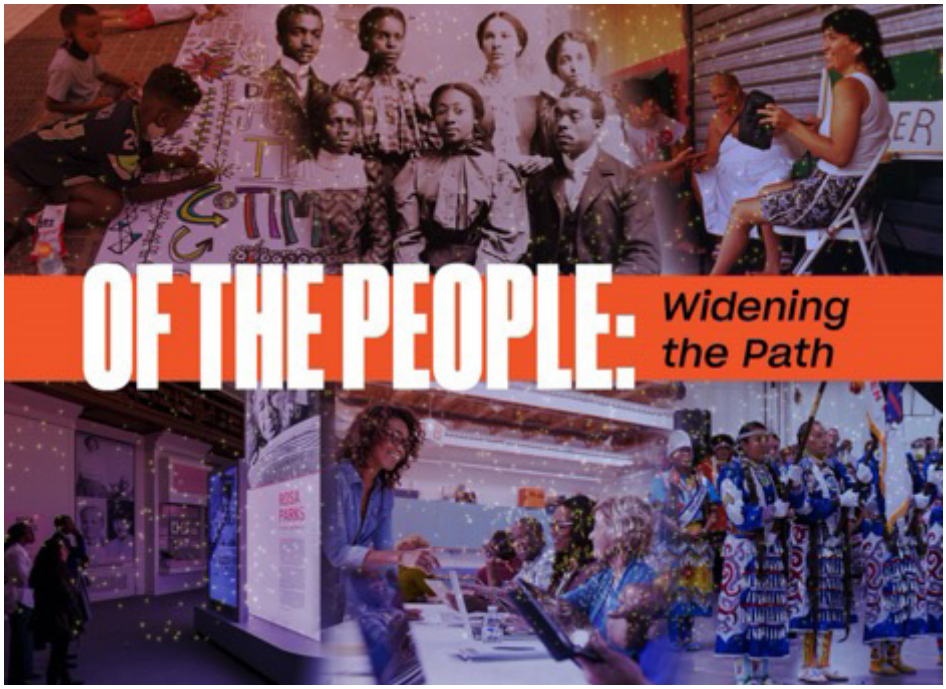

Jessica Epting

Of the People seeks to help the Library collect, preserve and share a more inclusive American story.

Of the People Website Launches

The site highlights the Library's Mellon-funded initiative to share a more inclusive American story.

BY LOLA PYNE

A new website, Of the People: Widening the Path, launched this week at loc.gov/of-the-people. The site serves as the online home for the Library's multiyear initiative of the same name. It creates new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library of Congress and to add their perspectives to the Library's collections, allowing the national library to share a more inclusive American story.

Supported by a $15 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Of the People promotes outreach to and technology innovation and archives development for, and by, Black, Indigenous and other communities of color historically underrepresented in the U.S. and in the Library's collections.

"The Library under Dr. Hayden's leadership has a clear vision: to connect to all Americans. Especially in light of national conversations about civil rights, the Library is rising to the challenge of reimagining and strengthening how we preserve and present the full American story," said Mukta Ohri, grant administrator and senior adviser in the Development Office.

OF THE PEOPLE, CONTINUED ON 7

NOTICES

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Keyoni Potter at kpotter@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown
Tiffany Corley Harkins
Stephanie Jefferson
Linda Malone
Kenneth Mitchell

FEDERAL BENEFITS OPEN SEASON

Federal benefits open season begins on Nov. 8 and runs through Dec. 13 this year. During this time, staff can review their health, dental, vision and flexible-spending account options to decide which plans meet their needs for the upcoming year.

A virtual benefits fair will be available throughout the entire open season period. Staff can visit the fair to review details about 2022 plans, watch instructional videos and explore benefits available. No in-person event will be held this year because of the pandemic.

On Nov. 12 and 19 and Dec. 1 and 8, representatives from all participating carriers will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to take questions live by chat. Register here to participate in live chat.

Questions? Submit them through the HCD portal or email AskHR@loc.gov.

STAFF VACCINATION DEADLINE ANNOUNCED

The Library announced this week that all current Library employees must be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Jan. 3, 2022. Employees are considered fully vaccinated when it has been at least two weeks since they received the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or the single dose of a one-dose vaccine. To meet the deadline to be fully vaccinated, current employees must receive the final dose of their COVID-19 vaccine by Dec. 20. At this time, booster shots are not necessary to be considered fully vaccinated.

Consistent with applicable law, the Library will consider individual exceptions to the vaccination requirement based on an employee's medical condition or sincerely held religious belief. The deadline for submitting exception requests is Nov. 15. All supporting information must be received by Nov. 22.

For more information about this new policy, see Special Announcement 21-13: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: CFC 5K COMING!

The Library is hosting its annual 5K fun run and a 1-mile walk supporting the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) from Nov. 16 to 30 this year.

Staff are encouraged to run or walk a 5K (3.1 miles) or a single mile anytime, anywhere, during this timeframe and submit their time, so winners in each age category can be determined. Awards will be given to the top men and women finishers of the 5K and 1 mile in the following age groups: 18 and under, 19 to 39 and 40 plus.

To participate, submit your name, age group, time and an optional selfie to cfc@loc.gov no later than Nov. 30.

VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, is a federal holiday.

GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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

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

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

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

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GAZETTE DEADLINES
The deadline for editorial copy for the Nov. 19 Gazette is Wednesday, Nov. 10.

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.

Film About Detroit Bankruptcy Wins Burns Prize

Runner-up tells story of wrongful 1973 murder conviction.

BY SAHAR KAZMI

At a virtual ceremony last week, the documentary "Gradually, Then Suddenly: The Bankruptcy of Detroit" received the 2021 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film. Directed by Sam Katz and James McGovern, the film chronicles the 2013 bankruptcy and hopeful revitalization of a great American city.

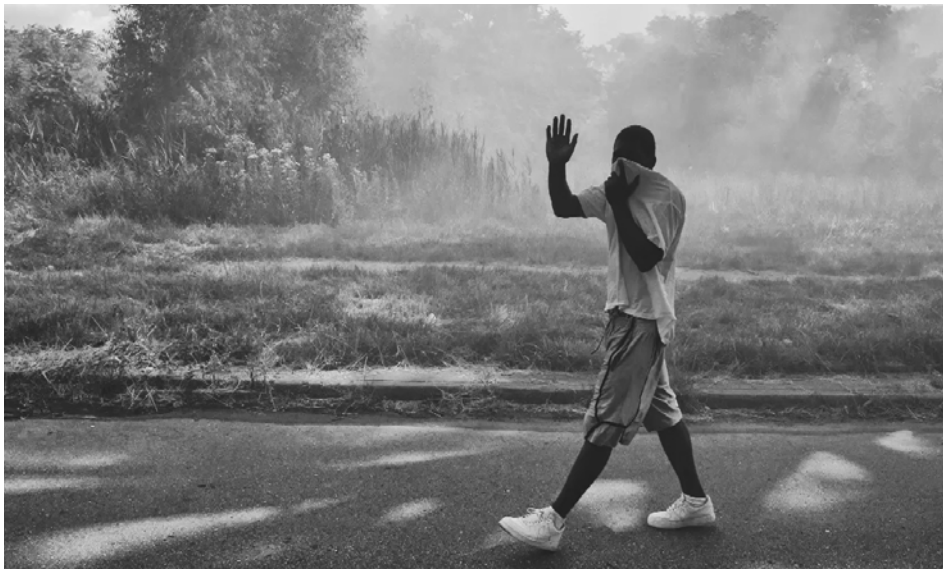
Established in 2019, the annual prize recognizes a late-stage documentary that draws on research and dramatic storytelling in the model of Ken Burns to paint a compelling portrait about American history. "Gradually" will receive a $200,000 prize.

"Ken and I were riveted by the storytelling, saddened by the history and inspired by the changes and the hard work that promise to bring back this once-grand city," Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said of "Gradually," which explores the lives, heartaches and dreams of Detroiters who saw their hometown descend into financial crisis and rise again into a new future.

She and Burns selected the winner after a national jury narrowed the nominees to the top two submissions.

Through interviews, photographs and archival footage, "Gradually" offers a sharp look at a community living through loss and the battle to save Detroit's worker pensions and priceless art from painful austerity measures.

The award ceremony included a roundtable conversation led by PBS NewsHour correspondent Yamiche Alcindor and featuring Hayden, Burns and documentarian Dawn Porter, who also served on the committee to review this year's prize nominees.



Courtesy of the filmmakers.

A clip from "Gradually, Then Suddenly: The Bankruptcy of Detroit."

Touching on some of the vivid historical footage showcased in Porter's acclaimed 2020 film, "John Lewis: Good Trouble," the panel examined the Library's efforts to capture the ordinary, day-to-day elements of American life and the ways its collections may help future generations understand history in all its texture and subtleties.

The program included appearances from a few of the many members of Congress whose support enables the Library to continue championing the art of American history documentary filmmaking. Among others, Sens. Cory Booker and Alex Padilla and Rep. Rodney Davis shared some of the documentaries that had inspired them, including Burns' sweeping projects on baseball and the American Civil War.

After a review of nominees by staff from Burns' Florentine Films production company and experts from the Library's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, six finalists were presented for consideration to a national jury including Porter, filmmaker Sam Pollard and Sally Rosenthal, whose "Mae West: Dirty Blonde" was runner-up for the 2019 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize. The jury forwarded the two finalists to Hayden and Burns.

This year's runner-up is "Free Chol Soo Lee" by Julie Ha and Eugene Yi. The documentary follows the turmoil and activism that united San Francisco's Korean American and Asian immigrant communities when one of their members was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1973. Ha and Yi will receive a $50,000 prize.

Prizes of $25,000 each will be awarded to the remaining four finalist films, which include explorations of blues musician James Cotton, photographers Ernest Withers and Eadweard Muybridge and the 1969 student protest at the City College of New York.

"What unites these stories is that they offer us lessons on bravery, defiance and perseverance. It is our hope that those who view the films will be inspired to view history as … a moving, breathing work of art," Jeannie Lavine said of this year's finalists.

The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize is made possible by the Crimson Lion/Lavine Family Foundation, which she established with husband Jonathan Lavine, and the nonprofit Better Angels Society, which is dedicated to exploring American history through documentary film. ■

Tomb of Unknown Soldier Marks Centennial

VHP will interview tomb sentinels to commemorate anniversary.

BY KERRY WARD

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, honors the service of U.S. military veterans, as most everyone knows. But this year, Nov. 11 is particularly special: It marks the centennial dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Anyone who has visited the cemetery is likely familiar with the iconic white marble sarcophagus that watches over our nation's capital. Millions of visitors each year come to observe the changing of the guard, but how many really knows how the tradition started?

Three years after the end of World War I, on Armistice Day, President Warren G. Harding presided over the funeral of "an unknown American warrior who in himself represents no section, creed or race in the late war and who typifies, moreover, the soul of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead."

About a month earlier, Sgt. Edward F. Younger had selected the unknown in France by placing a spray of white roses on the casket of one of the unknown American war dead. Younger served in the Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, 50th Infantry, of the American Forces in Germany.

The unknown was transported back to America aboard the USS Olympia and laid in state at the U.S. Capitol rotunda for tens of thousands to come to pay their respects. Then, a horse-drawn caisson carried the unknown through Washington, D.C., after which he was interred at Arlington.

The unknown represents all soldiers who have distinguished themselves with acts of valor and received the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration. Today, the tomb site holds remains of three unknown soldiers: the original from World War I, a second from World War II and a third from the Korean War. An unknown from the Vietnam War was identified through DNA testing in 1998, and his remains were returned to his family.

Kerry Ward

A sentinel from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

For more than 70 years now, sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard," have stood watch over the unknowns. In total, 688 sentinels have endured some of the area's harshest conditions to honor and secure the site.

The Veterans History Project (VHP) is home to three collections from sentinels who have shared personal narratives about their experiences. In the days surrounding the centennial, VHP staff and volunteers will be capturing about a dozen additional oral histories from veteran sentinels. The staff has also been asked to give a special presentation to the Society of the Honor Guard, an organization for sentinels and supporters of their mission.

Several other programs will honor the centennial as well, including events with VHP collaborators and donors such as the American Gold Star Mothers, the American Legion and the Military Women's Memorial.

In addition, on Nov. 9 and 10, the public is invited to walk the path of the sentinels, place flowers at the tomb and honor, as is inscribed on the tomb, those "American soldiers known but to God."

Beyond the centennial, events VHP is planning for Veterans Day this year include national radio interviews and workshops with members of Congress and the Chinese Family History Group of Southern California, which is using VHP resources to document and research members' genealogy. Staff will also be making appearances and assisting with interviews at veteran brunches, galas and more.

Want to get involved this Veterans Day? Visit loc.gov/vets to learn how to interview the veteran in your life. ■

Copyright Records from Nation's Early Days Released Online

A companion crowdsourcing campaign focuses on title pages from the records.

BY ELIZABETH GETTINS

The Rare Book and Special Collections Division announced the online release of this month of more than 200 ledgers from the Early Copyright Materials Collection. Handwritten entries in the ledgers record thousands of registrations by state under the first federal copyright laws.

To accompany the release, the By the People crowdsourcing project launched its largest crowdsourcing campaign to date, American Creativity: Early Copyright Title Pages.

It invites volunteers to transcribe more than 40,000 title pages from the Early Copyright Records Collection (1790-1870), which contains documents, including ledgers, resulting from the first federal copyright laws.

United States of America.

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

No. 577

DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE,

Eastern District of Michigan, ss.

Be it Remembered, That on the First day of October — Anno Domini, eighteen hundred and sixty-six Rothschild & Bro. of the said District, has deposited in this office the title of a Lithographed Label the title whereof is in the words following, to wit:

Rare Book and Special Collections Division

This ledger entry, deposited in the Eastern Michigan District between 1864 and 1867, has a product label affixed to it.

From 1790 through 1870, copyright registration was accomplished by completing a form at the local federal district court, paying a fee and depositing a printed title page with the court clerk. The Copyright Act of 1870 – the birth of modern copyright law – consolidated all these records under the jurisdiction of the Library of Congress. Some of the titles will be readily recognized, but many were never published or have been lost to history.

The titles and early records chronicle an industrious new nation and its intellectual pursuits, reflecting a uniquely American sensibility. "There are insights into society, culture and industry, both the haves and have nots, and [into] how America saw itself to be gleaned from this collection," copyright scholar Zvi Rosen of George Washington University Law School said.

In total, the Early Copyright Materials Collection consists of over 800 ledgers and assorted volumes of copyright-related works. Future digital releases will present the full collection of over 800 volumes of copyright registrations and related materials in their entirety. ■

American Foundation for the Blind Collection Acquired

The Library has acquired the M.C. Migel Memorial Rare Book Collection from the American Foundation for the Blind. A treasure trove of seminal books on blindness, it includes over 750 items dating from 1617 to the present, including books by and about Hellen Keller and other blind authors. In addition, the collection contains maps, rare pamphlets and many volumes of poetry, biographies and autobiographies.

The acquisition "expands in a significant way the Library's coverage of the historical responses to the practical, social and institutional needs of the blind," Mark Dimunation, chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, said.

Jason Broughton, director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS), added: "The Library's acquisition of this collection reinforces our long-standing commitment to serving blind and disabled communities. NLS works daily to ensure that all may read, and the Migel collection provides an excellent historical foundation as to why our work has been, and continues to be, so necessary."

Kirk Adams, president and chief executive of the American Foundation for the Blind, said the acquisition of the Migel collection by the Library "is a wonderful step forward toward disseminating the history of blindness and recognizing the importance of disability history."

Robert Irwin, the first director of the American Foundation for the Blind, began the collection in 1926 with a $1,000 grant to create a definitive reference library for the blindness field. As donations grew, the foundation hired librarian Helga Lende to manage the collection. She expanded it by traveling to Europe and acquiring volumes in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Esperanto, Dutch, Polish and Norwegian.

For more information and an overview of the collection's highlights, view the Library press release announcing the acquisition. ■

Janean Stevens

Jalondra Jackson

Jalondra Jackson is interning in the Office of Communications this fall through the Library of Congress Internship (LOCI) program, funded in part by Of the People: Widening the Path. See page 1 for an article about the program.

Tell us about your background.

I'm from Jacksonville, Florida. It's a city known for many things but, for me, it's a place that I'll always call home and credit for my beginnings professionally. It's where I discovered my passion for writing, which led me to my dream university, Clark Atlanta. I'm a junior there now majoring in journalism and minoring in business administration.

What inspired you to intern at the Library?

I used the Library as a resource for my research even before applying for an internship. I find enjoyment in archived materials and the preservation of memory, and that's what the Library provided to me. The Library is also a cultural institution that places importance on documentation. That was important for me as a journalist who uses writing to drive cultural change and make information accessible through the exploration of memory, whether it's forgotten or documented. I wanted to intern at an institution that valued the accessibility of knowledge within all communities, and that's exactly what I found at the Library.

What are you assigned to do?

I assist with the internal and external communications in the Office of Communications. I've assisted with tasks to launch the 2021 Main Reading Room virtual open house and internal communications for the Combined Federal Campaign, and I've written blog posts to highlight resources at the Library, including material relevant to Native American Heritage Month. Another project I've worked on involves a development plan to extend the Library's target audience to college students.

What are you gaining from the internship – and what do you enjoy most?

It'd be cliche to say a wealth of knowledge, but a wealth of knowledge. I am learning something new every day when I sign in to work. In the last two months, I've been given space to be nothing short of myself. My project mentor, Deanna McCray-James, and the Office of Communications have granted me complete creative freedom while I assist with projects – that has been my favorite part of the internship. But also, the entire Internship and Fellowship Programs Section team, which manages LOCI, has ensured that all interns connect, communicate and learn. That has been great, too.

Are there challenges to interning remotely?

The greatest challenge is the inability to experience the Library's culture to the fullest extent. There is only so much you can do virtually. I'd love to experience walking from one building to the next or heading over to the archives. Although it's been a challenge, my project mentor has ensured that I make connections across the office and Library.

How will the internship inform your career choice?

I've taken my research to an entirely new level. The Library's vast collection of items has encouraged me to view stories from multiple perspectives, and these collections will continue to inspire my writing process. But, mostly, working in the Office of Communications has introduced me to my own writing style. That will influence how I approach journalism from now on. ■

OF THE PEOPLE, CONTINUED FROM 1

The Library announced the initiative in January. Since that time, staff have implemented key components of the program, including hiring program staff, launching new internship programs and announcing new Library-funded grants available to individuals and organizations.

The components of the program fall into four categories:

Learn. Of the People seeks to increase opportunities to develop, manage, preserve and use resources and resource tools across the Library's collections. To help achieve that goal, the Human Capital Directorate's Internship and Fellowship Programs (IFP) Section is expanding opportunities for postsecondary students, early professionals and scholars that are supported by the Mellon grant.

In March, IFP invited students to apply for the Archives, History and Heritage Advanced Internship Program (AHHA). It gives the next generation of diverse archivists and knowledge workers invaluable opportunities to analyze, preserve and bring to light collections that represent the rich cultural and creative heritage of the U.S.

The AHHA internship is the extension of a successful pilot program implemented with Howard University that began in 2019. Generous donations by Craig and Diane Welburn – members of the Library's philanthropic James Madison Council – enabled the pilot's launch, and their continuing support is invaluable. The expanded program is now also supported by Of the People, and a new cohort of students and recent graduates selected for this year began work in the fall.

Collect and Preserve. Of the People also aims to empower people who live and work in underrepresented communities to gather, preserve and share their histories through audiovisual documentation. The American Folklife Center (AFC) has created a new Community Collections Grants program to support such cultural field research. The first application period for individual and institutional grants was open from July through September, and AFC received several hundred applications.

The Library intends to award up to 10 grants of up to $50,000 each in the first program year. The resulting cultural documentation projects, which can combine interviews, still photography, digital video, field notes and other formats, will be added to the Library's collections and become part of the national record.

Represent. Of the People also intends to amplify the stories of people whose voices traditionally have been minimized through programs that support innovative exploration and engagement with Library collections.

The Library's Digital Strategy Directorate conceived of the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative (CCDI) specifically to encourage creators in Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian American/Pacific Islander and other communities of color to combine Library materials with technology to connect Americans with a more expansive understanding of our past and future.

Four new four-year term positions will be created in the directorate, to be led by a new program director. In addition, funding exists for a rotation of temporary staff detail opportunities to ensure that the lessons learned draw from across the agency and feed back out across divisions.

Multiple CCDI grants are now open for application, including funding opportunities for libraries, archives, museums, institutions of higher education and an artist or scholar in residence. The objective is to fund digital or digital-physical interfaces, publications and exhibits that incorporate the Library's digital materials into resources that meet community needs.

Legacy. As part of the Library's vision to connect all Americans and to empower new generations and diverse audiences to explore its treasures, Of the People supports diverse and inclusive participation in the creation and perpetuation of the nation's historical and creative record.

The commitment to diversity within the collections builds on the efforts of Library staff over the years who have worked to collect, preserve and share an inclusive American story, most notably author and historian Daniel A.P. Murray. He worked for more than 50 years at the Library and was influential in including materials that document the lives and accomplishments of African Americans. When he started in 1871, he was the second Black employee ever to work for the Library. Yet, after only 10 years, he became assistant librarian, a position he held for 41 years.

Of the People also seeks to highlight the work and efforts of Library staff today to tell a more inclusive American story. The website links to Library resources, collections and guides, such as those of Murray but also the African-American Mosaic, a resource guide for the study of Black history and culture; U.S. poet laureate Joy Harjo's "Living Nations, Living Words" project, featuring the work of Native American poets; the Latinx Studies guide to Library resources; and the Asian American Pacific Islander Collection.

Of the People's overarching vision is to permanently "widen the path" for all Americans, not only to engage with historical and cultural knowledge, but also to participate or be represented in the practice of creating, preserving and sharing knowledge now and in the future. To that end, opportunities will become available for staff at all levels to support this growing community of practice and contribute to the program's success both directly and indirectly.

To learn more about Of the People, visit the new website or check out the recently launched Of the People blog, which reports on the plans and progress of this exciting new initiative. ■