Ada Limón Named 24th U.S. Poet Laureate

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced the appointment of Ada Limón as the nation’s 24th poet laureate consultant in poetry this week. Limón will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library’s annual literary season on Sept. 29 with a reading of her work in the Coolidge Auditorium.

“Ada Limón is a poet who connects,” Hayden said. “Her accessible, engaging poems ground us in where we are and who we share our world with. They speak of intimate truths, of the beauty and heartbreak that is living, in ways that help us move forward.”

Limón joins a long line of distinguished poets who have served in the position, including Joy Harjo, Juan Felipe Herrera, Charles Wright, Natasha Trethewey, Philip Levine, W.S. Merwin, Kay Ryan, Charles Simic, Donald Hall, Ted Kooser, Louise Glück, Billy Collins, Stanley Kunitz, Robert Pinsky, Robert Hass and Rita Dove.

“What an incredible honor to be named the 24th poet laureate of the United States. Again and again, I have been witness to poetry’s immense power to reconnect us to the world, to allow us to heal, to love, to grieve, to remind us of the full spectrum of human emotion,” Limón said. “This recognition belongs to the teachers, poets, librarians and ancestors from all over the world that have been lifting up poetry for years. I am humbled by this opportunity to work...
NOTICES

DONATED TIME
The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at amcallister@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown
Cherkea Howery

KITH TO ADDRESS WOMEN’S FORUM
July 28, 2 p.m.
Online
The Women’s Forum for Growth and Networking of the Library of Congress Professional Association this month will host Sarah Kith, diversity and inclusion adviser and a principal convener in the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Programs. She will discuss diversity and inclusion in the workplace as well as her career progression. All are welcome.

Join the meeting here. Questions for the speaker? Send an email to womensforumboard@loc.gov
For updates, join the women’s forum Listserv.

2022 FEDERAL EMPLOYEE VIEWPOINT SURVEY
The Human Capital Directorate (HCD) is partnering with the Office of Personnel Management to launch the 2022 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) at the Library on July 27.
FEVS measures employee satisfaction in a number of areas. By taking the survey, staff members can ensure that their voices are heard as the Library works to improve its workplace culture. HCD staff will collaborate with service units to analyze results, identify priorities and develop action plans to address concerns.
Questions? Visit AskHCD. In the drop-down menus, select Employee Engagement and Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey.

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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 July 29 Gazette is Wednesday, July 20.
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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2 JULY 15, 2022
Library Acquires Oral Histories of Veteran Artists

The donation followed a three-day exhibition, including live demonstrations.

BY MARÍA PEÑA

American veterans have been tested on and off the battlefield, sometimes in unimaginable ways, but art has given many a lifeline for self-expression to manage trauma and wounds seen and unseen. Now, the Library has acquired the first installment of oral histories by veteran artists from Uniting US, a nonprofit organization, toward its goal of submitting 100 over the next year.

Veteran and Uniting US co-founder AnnMarie Halterman handed the oral histories, submitted in decorated envelopes, to Monica Mohindra, director of the Veterans History Project, last Thursday in the Coolidge Auditorium. The donation concluded a three-day exhibit at the Library, “From Conflict to Creativity: Veteran Artists Showcase,” organized to encourage veteran artists to share their stories.

Held as part of Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month, the event brought together 35 artists who offered live demonstrations and explained how they have used art as therapy to address post-traumatic stress and military sexual trauma.

“Our team has spent the better part of a year planning to host this event, and it has been worth every minute,” Mohindra said in the Coolidge Auditorium. “We are very grateful to all the talented veterans representing so many artistic disciplines, each uniquely resonating with people from all walks of life.”

She added: “These survivors, these artists, have proven that tapping your story, expressing your creativity in whatever form fuels growth and even beauty.”

“We captured the first batch of veterans’ life experiences to include their meaningful art images, words and performances while preserving documentation of the post-traumatic stress and military sexual trauma lived experiences,” Halterman said of the donation.

Veteran artists from across the nation and overseas participated in the exhibit and event, including Celine Dye, a World War II veteran; Bob Cortez, a recently retired Army chief warrant officer, and his wife, Leigh Cortez, also an Army veteran; and Army veteran Terri Souder. Souder flew from Elmira, New York, to showcase a unique piece of glasswork she created to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It is a vase holding three roses: a red one for fallen soldiers; a yellow one for POWs and MIAs; and a white one for those who perished after coming home, either because of suicide, battle wounds or health conditions developed after being in a conflict zone.

“The vase I also put a forget-me-not, so that we always remember the service and sacrifice of our brothers and sisters,” Souder said.

Over its three days, the exhibit attracted close to a thousand visitors to the Jefferson Building, where artists shared some of their hidden stories and displayed works from disciplines including painting, fiber arts, ceramics, woodworking, pottery, photography, quilting and metalcraft.

To accompany the exhibit, the Military Women Musicians Brass Quintet played a potpourri of all-time favorite patriotic tunes in the Great Hall, while tourists and school groups pulled out their phones for photos and videos.

Quilts of Honor co-founder Gail Belmont guided young visitors in the use of a sewing machine to craft palm-sized quilted squares, while other participants demonstrated their elaborate quilting skills. Members of the public were encouraged to sign quilt blocks that will eventually be sewn onto full-sized quilts for Americans who have served in combat.

Quilts of Honor has sent thousands of handmade quilts to Purple Heart recipients, veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder or brain injury and those who’ve completed multiple deployments.

Ryan Hinely, an outreach specialist with the DC Vet Center, came to see the exhibit because, in his words, “Uniting US events are emotionally resonant veteran events” that give the public access to “stories about the power of art to help people overcome and grow beyond trauma.”
Library-Led Initiative Is Finalist for Prestigious Award

BY KATE MURRAY

The Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI) is one of three finalists for the prestigious 20th Anniversary Award of the Digital Preservation Coalition. The one-time award will highlight a continuing and substantial contribution to the digital preservation community in any form over the past 20 years.

Led by the Library’s Digital Collections Management and Services Division (DCMS), FADGI is a collaborative project among federal agencies that articulates sustainable practices and guidelines for working with digitized and born-digital historical, archival and cultural content.

What started as an idea to bring together scanning and digitization expertise from U.S. federal agencies has evolved into a global model for knowledge and resource sharing that supports not only the cultural heritage community, but also service providers and manufacturers of digitization equipment.

“FADGI’s sustained impact on the digital preservation landscape is significant,” said Hana Beckerle of DCMS. “It includes free and open access to its well-researched guidelines and support for tools, such as open-source applications, to implement the guidelines.”

FADGI is made up of two working groups, one focused on still images (textual content, maps, paintings and photographic prints and negatives) and the other on audiovisual content (sound, video and motion picture film). The Library supports FADGI, but its 20 member institutions, expert consultants and dedicated colleagues enable its work.

Some of FADGI’s most well-known projects include its technical guidelines for digitizing cultural heritage materials. An updated version is now open for public comment with a final release coming at the end of the year.

Also notable are FADGI’s star rating system for defining image quality; its embedded metadata guidelines for scanned motion picture film and complex audiovisual content; its performance metrics and measurements for analog-to-digital converters; and its embedded metadata guidelines for broadcast WAVE files, supported by the enormously popular BWF MetaEdit application. Upon its release, the application was groundbreaking for the audiovisual community, because it made it easy for users to detect corrupted data.

All of FADGI’s software carries defined open licenses, is available free of charge and is actively maintained.

“In terms of impact, FADGI is foundational to the digital preservation community,” said Tom Rieger of DCMS. “The FADGI star ratings are the gold standard of determining imaging quality across the world.”

In addition to FADGI’s wide variety of guidelines and tools, it also supports a detailed glossary of digital preservation terms that attracts hundreds or even thousands of visitors each month.

The winner of the 20th Anniversary Award will be announced at the iPRES 2022 International Conference on Digital Preservation in Glasgow, Scotland, in September.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE AVAILABLE

Anthony Dunn provides notary public services for Library employees in the Office of the General Counsel, LM 601, by appointment on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and on Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Contact him for an appointment at OGCnotary@loc.gov.
As there are many moving parts to the guide that need translating, reorganizing and editing, I'm grateful to be on a team with my project mentor, Giselle Aviles, and my junior fellow partner, A.B. Bejar. We're currently reaching out to community members for interviews, so scheduling and coordinating also constitute a large part of my time.

Preparing for display day, which will take place on July 20, is another major aspect of this program. It’s been interesting to think about how to convey the main points of this project. There’s a part of me that wants to share every detail!

There are also professional development and educational sessions for junior fellows every Tuesday and Friday, and I’ve really been enjoying those. It’s great to have so many layered knowledge experiences.

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

The quantity of materials in the Library’s collections written in Quechua, either in part or full, blew me away. Quechua is a language used by Indigenous Andean folk to communicate and predates the arrival of the Spanish in South America, possibly by a thousand years. It’s been described as an endangered language, but we want this research guide to focus on narratives of revitalization and growth. So, showcasing what the Library has to offer is very important.

Specifically, however, I’ve been captivated by Andean Huaynos, which are traditional Indigenous songs that have been sung to instruments like the “quena” (flute), “zampoña” (panpipes) or “charango/kirki” (guitar). As I grew up, my father played Huayno music around the house. So, seeing materials in the Library’s collections about those and other Indigenous music practices is indescribable.

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

The emphasis on research into Andean and Indigenous resources grabbed my attention. It struck me as rare, how this project focuses on Indigenous voices, Indigenous languages, Indigenous experiences.

There was a specific mention of the Quechua language in the project description to which I had a personal connection: My grandparents were fluent, and members of my family have varying knowledge of the language. These past few years have chiefly been about reconnecting with my Peruvian heritage and all the different aspects of it. So, this fellowship felt like it came around at the perfect time. I’m very grateful.

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

I’m sure fellows say this all the time, but this program is so incredible. A.B. Bejar and I were talking recently about how momentous it is that a national, even international, library of this size and prestige is creating a research guide on Indigenous Andean communities. The thought of that has infused a certain reverence on my part. I’m very aware that this is such a wonderful project for the preservation of knowledge and culture.

On top of that, I’ve also met so many kind and funny people on this journey, and that has made the experience all the richer and more remarkable.

**Will the fellowship influence your career plans?**

I’ve always been a believer in the power of institutions such as libraries and museums to validate community identities and experiences. Seeing that happen in real time with this fellowship has definitely set the tone for what I want to do in the future.

I’m hoping that this experience will serve as a personal blueprint for my career — in terms of the passion and community involvement that I can help weave into histories. As those who work for the Library well know, information can be so powerful. Sharing it with the intentions of preservation, respect and kindness can change lives.

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**Monica Soto**

Monica Soto, a junior fellow, is interning in the Latin American, Caribbean and European Division this summer. She has a bachelor’s degree in history from the College of William and Mary and is now pursuing a master’s degree in library and information science at the University of Denver.

**Tell us about your project.**

Titled “Weaving Community Narratives and Histories,” the project is essentially a curated research guide to highlight Andean and Indigenous resources in the Library’s collections as well as the knowledge of Indigenous community members. Language, culture, music, art — it’s all going to be included in this guide.

Academic spaces can be an area where community input, especially from Indigenous folks, is often overlooked or not seen as equal to scholarly knowledge. This project’s goal is to amplify these voices and stories for the benefit of researchers and the public alike.

**What are your day-to-day activities?**

As there are many moving parts to the guide that need translating, reorganizing and editing, I’m...
POET LAUREATE, CONTINUED FROM 1

in the service of poetry and to amplify poetry’s ability to restore our humanity and our relationship to the world around us.”

Limón was born in Sonoma, California, in 1976 and is of Mexican ancestry. She is the author of six poetry collections, including “The Carrying” (2018), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry; “Bright Dead Things” (2015), a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award; “Sharks in the Rivers” (2010); “Lucky Wreck” (2006); and “This Big Fake World” (2006).

She earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University and is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center and the Kentucky Foundation for Women.

Her newest poetry collection, “The Hurting Kind,” was recently published as part of a three-book deal that includes the publication of “Beast: An Anthology of Animal Poems,” featuring work by major poets over the last century, followed by a volume of new and selected poems.

Limón is currently the host of the podcast series “The Slowdown” from American Public Media, which was launched as part of Tracy K. Smith’s poet laureateship in 2019. Limón serves on the faculty of Queens University of Charlotte’s low residency MFA program. She lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

The Library’s Poetry and Literature Center is the home of the poet laureate consultant in poetry, a position that has existed since 1937, when Archer M. Huntington endowed a chair of poetry at the Library. Since then, many of the nation’s most eminent poets have served as consultant in poetry to the Library or, after the passage of Public Law 99-194 on Dec. 20, 1985, as poet laureate consultant in poetry – a position the law states “is equivalent to that of Poet Laureate of the United States.”

Each poet laureate seeks to increase appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties required of the poet laureate, who opens the literary season in the fall and closes it in the spring. In recent years, laureates have initiated poetry projects that broaden audiences for poetry.

For more information, visit the poetry and literature webpage.

PORTAIT OF TRAILBLAZER UNVEILED

June 23 marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which helped to equalize the playing field for women in higher education. To mark the occasion, a portrait of Patsy Takemoto Mink, the late congresswoman from Hawaii who was centrally involved in the legislation’s passage, was unveiled in the U.S. Capitol. The painting by artist Sharon Sprung joins other portraits of women trailblazers hanging in the Capitol. Read more, including about how to explore Mink’s papers in the Manuscript Division through a newly available LibGuide.

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 its online form or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

HCD SERVICES PORTAL

In the new hybrid workplace, the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) services portal is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.
with the History of Slavery Across America.”

Events on several of the stages will be livestreamed on loc.gov/bookfest, and videos of all presentations will be made available on demand after the festival. Here is the full lineup of featured authors by stage:

**Main Stage:** Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk and Nicola Yoon; Nyle DiMarco; Leslie Jordan; Janelle Monáe; Nick Offerman.

**History and Biography:** Tomiko Brown-Nagin; Jack E. Davis; Howard W. French; Kate Clifford Larson; Kelly Lytle Hernández; David Maraniss; Candice Millard; Clint Smith; Danyel Smith.

**Life/Style:** Geoffrey L. Cohen; Tracy Dennis-Tiwary; Todd Doughty; Hekima Hapa and Lesley Ware; Celeste Headlee; David M. Rubenstein; Ellen Vora.

**Pop Lit:** Mitch Albom; Louis Bayard; Jennifer Close; Susan Coli; Karen Joy Fowler; Grant Ginder; Xochitl Gonzalez; Katie Gutierrez; Dolen Perkins-Valdez; Amanda Eyre Ward.

**Science Fiction and Fantasy:** Chelsesea Abdullah; Holly Black; B.L. Blanchard; Rob Hart; M.J. Kuhn; Victor Manibo; Tochi Onyebuchi; Leslye Penelope; Lucinda Roy; Nghi Vo.

**Society and Culture:** Rachel Aviv; Gal Beckerman; Daniel Bergner; Juli Berwald; Will Bunch; Morten Høi Jensen, Shawn McCreesh and Becca Rothfeld; Kathryn Judge; Brendan McConville; Robert Samuels; Linda Villarosa; Edith Widder; Elizabeth Williamson; Ed Yong.

**Writers Studio:** Nuar Alsadir; Geraldine Brooks; Kim Fu; Diana Goetsch; Rebecca Miller; Tomás Q. Morin; Sarah Ruhl; Morgan Talty; Jesmyn Ward; Lidia Yuknavitch.

**KidLit:** Kwame Alexander; Mac Barnett and Shawn Harris; Fred Bowen and James E. Ransome; David Bowles; Soman Chainani; Johnnie Christmas; Erin Entrada Kelly; Kat Fajardo; Lev Grossman; Gordon Korman; Juliet Menéndez; Andrea Davis Pinkney and Tybre Faw; Julian Randall; Tui T. Sutherland; Jennifer Ziegler.

**Please Read Me A Story:** Derrick Barnes and Vanessa Brantley-Newton; Mac Barnett; Ruth Behar; Ruby Bridges; Marc Brown; Xelena Gonzalez; Bakari Sellers; Britanny J. Thurman.

**Young Adult:** Samira Ahmed; Victora Aveyard; Donna Barba Higuera; Namina Forna; Chloe Gong; Tiffany D. Jackson; Ryan La Sala; Ebony LaDelle; Darcie Little Badger; Malinda Lo; E. Lockhart; Anna-Marie McLemore; Jason Reynolds; R.M. Romero; Sabaa Tahir; David Valdés.

Other highlights will include a panel consisting of popular audiobook narrators and performances by Literature to Life, a performance-based literacy nonprofit.

The book festival is made possible by the generous support of private- and public-sector sponsors who share the Library’s commitment to reading and literacy, led by National Book Festival Co-Chair David M. Rubenstein. Sponsors include General Motors, the James Madison Council, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the John W. Kluge Center. Additional support is provided from the For the People Fund, with seed funding provided by the Ford Foundation, Scholastic, Sharjah Book Authority, Friends of the Library of Congress and the Rancho Mirage Writers Festival.

For more information, visit www.loc.gov/bookfest.

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**NBF, CONTINUED FROM 1**

The 2022 book festival returns to the Washington Convention Center this Labor Day weekend.
FutureBridge Is Accepting Applications

Applications for FutureBridge, a nine-month mentoring program offered by the Library Collections and Services Group, are currently being accepted. Now in its 10th year, FutureBridge has helped some 70 Library staff members improve their professional skills and advance their careers.

Participants in FutureBridge are paired with a mentor for the duration of the program, which will begin with an opening ceremony in September and run from this October to June 2023. The program is open to employees at grade levels GS and WG 2 through 9.

FutureBridge mentees meet regularly with their mentors to discuss career opportunities, professional growth and long-term goals. Mentees also attend two to three short professional development sessions each month. In addition, they have access to FutureBridge coaches, who are available to share experiences from their own career journeys, help with problem solving, offer insights into their areas of expertise and provide shadowing opportunities.

Mentees are expected to devote approximately eight hours a month to the program for one-on-one meetings with a mentor, meetings with the FutureBridge program coordinator, creation of an individual development plan, monthly professional development sessions and other activities, such as participating in online courses, brown-bag meetings, coaching and networking.

For mentors and coaches, the total time commitment is approximately two to four hours a month.

FutureBridge aligns with core competencies at the Library. The 11 competencies form the foundation for effective job performance for every Library employee, regardless of position, specialty, grade level or area of responsibility.

For the 2022-23 session of FutureBridge, enrollment will be limited to a total of 12 mentee participants.

For mentee candidates, the application period will remain open through July 28 or until the first 25 applications have been received. Mentee applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications are also open for staff members interested in serving as FutureBridge mentors or coaches. The online application for FutureBridge mentees is here.

A separate application for prospective mentors and coaches is here.

Questions? Visit the FutureBridge website or send an email to futurebridge@loc.gov.