

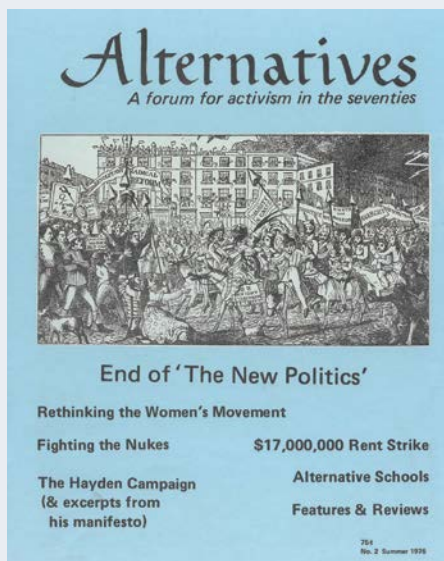


Library Perspectives

Fall 2018, Issue 59

Enhancing Access to Student Publications

Since its inception, the Oberlin College Archives has, as part of its core mission, collected materials that document the life of college students as represented in newspapers, literary journals, current events magazines, and other student publications. While Archives staff maintain a comprehensive inventory of some 200 student publications held in its collection, until



Alternatives (1976-1982) provided a forum for progressive campus activism.

recently it indicated only titles and issues held. While useful, this bare-bones checklist made it virtually impossible for researchers to identify student publications of a particular genre or subject focus, or even determine which student organizations published them, without having to retrieve materials from the vault for closer examination.

Under the direction of Associate Archivist Anne Salsich, access to student

Continued on page 6

Maria Balinska to Speak at Friends Dinner

Maria Balinska, co-CEO and editor of the United States edition of *The Conversation* (theconversation.com/us) will be the featured speaker at the annual Friends of the Libraries dinner on Saturday, November 3. *The Conversation U.S.* arose out of “deep-seated concerns for the fading quality of our public discourse — and recognition of the vital role that academic experts can play in the public arena. Independent and not-for-profit, it is part of a global network of newsrooms first launched in Australia in 2011.” Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward serves on the Board of Trustees of *The Conversation U.S.*

Balinska previously worked at the BBC in London where for 10 years she was editor of *World Current Affairs Radio*. A 2010 Nieman Fellow at Harvard, she is also the founder of *Latitude News*, a digital platform that introduced new ways of covering world affairs for American audiences. She is the author of *The Bagel: The Surprising History of a Modest Bread* (Yale University Press, 2009). At the Friends dinner, Balinska will discuss the need for infusing quality back into the public discourse by encouraging academics to engage in forums like *The Conversation*. As stated on the website, “*The Conversation’s* mission is particularly resonant in the U.S., where people universally sense that the country’s social fabric is strained and the common ground people share is shrinking.” One remedy for this unraveling is providing freely available information and scholarly articles based on academic expert knowledge through *The Conversation’s* “deliberate and collaborative editorial process.” *The Conversation* began its U.S. operations in 2014. 📖



Maria Balinska

Honoring Mary Church Terrell



Story on page 4

Mary Eliza Church, senior portrait, Oberlin College Class of 1884

Recent Gifts

The Libraries gratefully acknowledge the following significant monetary gifts and gifts-in-kind.

Major monetary gifts:

- Jade Tree Foundation, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Dorothy Olson '39, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Steven Woodbury '68, for the Librarian's Discretionary Fund.

Generous monetary gifts:

- Scott Bennett '60, for the Librarian's Discretionary Fund.
- Dean S. Edmonds Foundation, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
- Andrew Manshel '78, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Paulina Marks '45, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Emily McClintock '76, for the Friends of the Libraries.
- Hamilton Moses, former student, for the Conservatory Special Book Fund.
- Mark Smith '90, for the Art Library Special Book Fund.

Gifts-in-kind:

- Claudia Macdonald, Professor Emerita of Musicology, donated books, scores and recordings to the Conservatory Library.
- Robert Rotberg '55 donated books about Africa.
- Paula Newberg donated a large number of books about India.
- Gene Woodling donated books and films in support of the Gene Woodling Collection of Gay Fiction.
- Suzanne Gay, Professor Emerita of East Asian Studies and History, donated books to the East Asian collection.
- Bruce Simonson, Professor of Geology, continues to donate books of various topics for the Science Library.
- Steve Woodbury '68 donated his collection of paper cut books and artwork for the Art Library and Special Collections. 📖

Scott Smith In Memoriam

Oberlin College lost one of the libraries' strongest supporters on March 21, 2018 when Scott Alan Smith '79 passed away in Oregon. Born in Zanesville, Ohio in 1956, Scott majored in German at Oberlin. With language skills and a love of travel, libraries, and learning, Scott became a library representative for the academic book retailer Blackwell

North America and visited libraries across the U.S. and abroad from China to Arabia. Later he earned an M.S. in librarianship and served as the town librarian in Langlois, Oregon. Scott was a faithful member and chair of the Friends Acquisitions Committee from the 1990s until recently. His wit, knowledge, and dedication will be greatly missed. 📖

Library Perspectives

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A newsletter for users and Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries,
Library Perspectives is issued two times a year.
Printed from an endowed fund established by Benjamin and Emiko Custer.

Friends Update

The Friends of the Libraries received \$68,457 in monetary gifts during the 2017-18 academic year. Membership in the Friends totaled 498, including 287 regular members who contributed directly to the Friends, 153 members who donated to other library funds or made gifts-in-kind, 33 life members, 12 honorary members, and 13 members who are students or recent graduates. Gifts-in-kind exceeded 14,300 items. Friends of the Libraries Council approved spending \$40,355 of Friends funds to purchase rare materials for special collections, plus major multidisciplinary resources and significant works to support research and the curriculum in art, music, and science (see *Library Perspectives*, Spring 2018).

Friends programs last year included book talks by Sebastiaan Faber, Professor and Chair of Hispanic Studies; Eboni Johnson, Outreach and Programming Librarian; and Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, Presidential Scholar in Islamic Studies and Nancy Schrom Dye Chair in Middle East and North African Studies. Other programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the Friends were talks by John Harwood, University of Toronto, on "Thomas Jefferson's Library and the Roots of American Architecture," and Kee Il Choi, Leiden University, on *Vases Chinois*. Bernard F. Reilly, Center for Research Libraries, spoke on "Digital Amnesia" at the Future of Libraries Symposium and Denise Gigante, Stanford University, delivered the Harold Jantz Memorial Lecture. Clifford Thompson '85 was the featured speaker at the annual Friends dinner and visited classes in Africana studies and creative writing to share his experiences as an artist, author, editor, and essayist. 📖



Graduate Library School Scholarship Winners



Alexandra Howard

Alexandra (Alex) Howard '14 and Claire Payne '15 are winners of 2018 Friends of the Libraries Graduate Library School Scholarships in the amount of \$3,500 each. For the fifth consecutive year, two scholarships were awarded from among a strong applicant pool.

Howard majored in Africana studies at Oberlin and received a Friends of the Libraries Excellence in Research Award in 2013 for her digital exhibition “Bone Throwing, Bible Toting” (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2014). Much of her work since graduation has focused on community empowerment and the criminal justice system, from helping to produce the documentary *From the Inside Out*, to serving as the Youth Advisory Board Coordinator in San Francisco, to working very recently as a criminal investigator with the Public Defender’s Office in Nashville, Tennessee. Her Oberlin College experience as co-facilitator for an autobiography class in the Grafton Correctional Institution provided a springboard for those endeavors. Howard will attend Simmons University in Boston, where she will participate in the Cultural Heritage Informatics concentration in the School of Library and Information Science. She believes the “blending of archival management with digital librarianship will foster greater understanding within and among communities — from the disenfranchised to the elite,” and sees this as “work that is at the crossroads of social

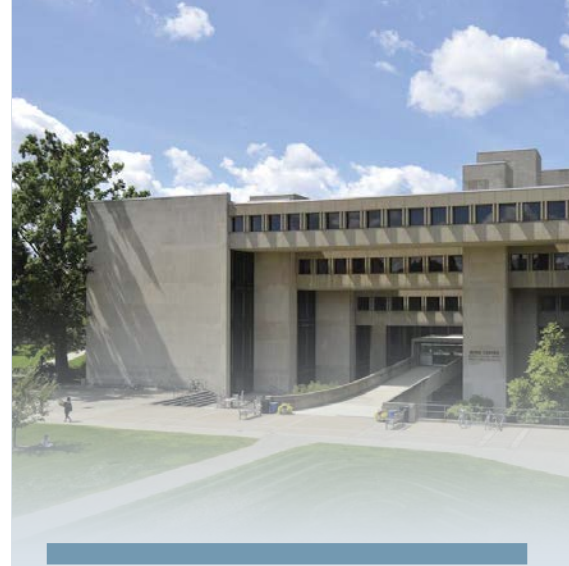


Claire Payne

justice and critical pedagogy.” Howard volunteers at a branch library of Belmont University, working with digital media and researching “evolving forms of digital inquiry.” She very recently began a new position as Patron Services Assistant at the Social Law Library in Boston.

Payne majored in history at Oberlin with minors in art history and French. She currently attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and expects to complete master’s degrees in both information science and art history by May 2019. Her library experience began as a student assistant at the Main Library circulation desk. Since then, Payne has worked in or volunteered for two archives, two public libraries, and three academic libraries. Her experience also includes service in two separate AmeriCorps programs. In her application, Payne noted that she is “interested in the library as a space that lies at the intersection of preservation and progress, serving as a hub for new technologies.” She hopes to be an “active participant in ever-vital conversations about the changing theoretical landscape of the library,” and aims to serve in an academic art library environment, where she can be an “essential partner in the work of scholars at all levels.”

Friends President Robert Taylor, Collection Development Librarian Jessica Grim, and Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward comprise the Friends of the Libraries Scholarship Committee. 📖



2017-2018 Friends Council

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Main Library to be Named in



Mary Church Terrell, chairperson of the Coordinating Committee for the Enforcement of Anti-Discrimination Laws, Washington, D.C., led protests such as the one mentioned above.

The Main Library in Mudd Center soon will be named in honor of Oberlin College alumna Mary Church Terrell (BA 1884, MA 1888, hon. 1948), an educator, feminist, civil rights activist, founding member of the National Association of Colored Women, and charter member of the NAACP. The naming ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. on October 6, during President Carmen Twillie Ambar's inauguration weekend. This celebration is the culmination of several months of preparation, and will commemorate the learning, labor, leadership, and legacy of Mary Church Terrell.

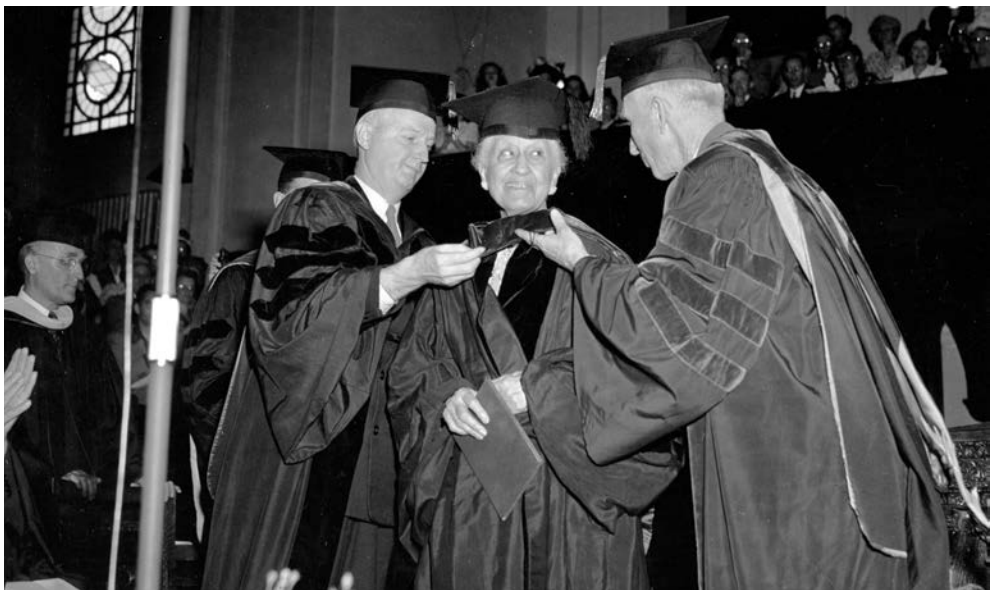
Raymond and Jean Langston donated the Mary Church Terrell Papers to the Oberlin College Archives in June 2015 (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2016). To celebrate this donation and Terrell's influence on social justice, the symposium "Complicated Relationships: Mary Church Terrell's Legacy for 21st Century Activists" was held on campus on February 26-27, 2016. The excitement surrounding the donation of the papers and the symposium helped to inspire further discussion about

ways to commemorate the life and accomplishments of Mary Church Terrell. The Oberlin College Board of Trustees voted to name the main library to honor Terrell during its meeting in June 2017.

The online digital exhibition *Mary Church Terrell: An Original Oberlin Activist* (go.oberlin.edu/ocl/terrell) was launched in May during Commencement/Reunion Weekend. It has continued to develop through the efforts and research of the libraries' digital initiatives team, using materials from the Mary Church Terrell Papers and other collections in the Oberlin College Archives and libraries. Megan Mitchell, Digital Initiatives Librarian, remarked that "this digital project has been a tremendous learning experience — about Mary Church Terrell, of course, but also about the college and the town of Oberlin, and about the problems of race and gender in the United States. The project offered an amazing opportunity to draw upon the expertise of many colleagues in the libraries and archives and to delve deeply into our own rich primary sources." Cecilia Robinson, Digital Initiatives Assistant, added that "one of the things that stands out in my mind is that from reading Mary Church Terrell's autobiography I could retrace her journey in life and thus really get

to know her. It was especially exciting to retrace her time at Oberlin — her participation in the Aelioian Literary Society, living at the Ladies Hall, among other things — as they elucidate what life was like for college women during that period. She was so fully engaged in college life and I am very glad that we have the evidence protected in the Archives." The team will continue to add materials and narrative to the exhibition.

In conjunction with the launch of the online exhibition, several related initiatives were part of Commencement/Reunion Weekend. The College Archives assembled an exhibition of materials from the Mary Church Terrell Papers, consisting of correspondence, photographs, a diary entry, and other materials. That exhibition will be on display again for the naming ceremony. College Archivist Ken Grossi noted that these primary source materials are used for teaching and research. For example, records of the Aelioian Literary Society, the *Oberlin Review*, and materials in Terrell's alumnae folder document her very active student days at Oberlin College. Letters from Terrell to Oberlin College President Henry Churchill King in 1914 relate her concern over the lack of equal housing opportunities for African-American



Mary Church Terrell receives an honorary degree from Oberlin College, June 14, 1948. (left to right) Donald Love, Leonard Stidley, Terrell, and Clarence Ward

Honor of Mary Church Terrell

“A white woman has only one handicap to overcome — that of sex. I have two — both sex and race. I belong to the only group in this country which has two such huge obstacles to surmount.”

students on campus. Photographs, flyers, and articles provide evidence of Terrell’s fight against segregated lunch counters and other businesses in Washington, D.C. in the 1950s.

Another initiative was the creation of a limited edition Mary Church Terrell commemorative bookmark set, designed by Heath Patten, Visual Resources Curator, and the Office of Communications graphic design team. The October inaugural weekend of President Carmen Twillie Ambar will see the release of additional promotional materials that will include another, more elaborate set of bookmarks specific to the naming ceremony, and a 2019 commemorative calendar featuring Mary Church Terrell and other notable 19th-century African-American women alumnae.

Also during Commencement/Reunion Weekend, those who attended the Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries reception were given a sneak peek at the official portrait of Mary Church Terrell that will be installed in the foyer of the newly named library. Attendees learned that along with the naming, the library’s main level will undergo an interior refresh, including an update to the green soffit that will bear Mary Church Terrell’s name. Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward says library patrons can look forward to new furniture, updated paint colors, and some reconfiguration of the library’s main level. “We want people to know that Mudd Center is not changing its name—but that the main library is being named.”

In celebration of this naming, the Oberlin College Libraries established The Mary Church Terrell Endowed Book Fund. The fund was endowed after just two months of joint efforts from Hudson-Ward, the Friends of the Libraries, and the Oberlin Alumni Association of African Ancestry. The goal of the fund is to enable



U.S. commemorative postage stamp of Mary Church Terrell and Mary White Ovington, co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (stamp issued in 2009)

the expansion of the libraries’ collections related to cultural diversity, civil rights, community leadership, and social justice. Coinciding with the library’s naming ceremony, a traveling exhibition focused on Terrell’s life is planned. “The goal is to create a series of educational panels

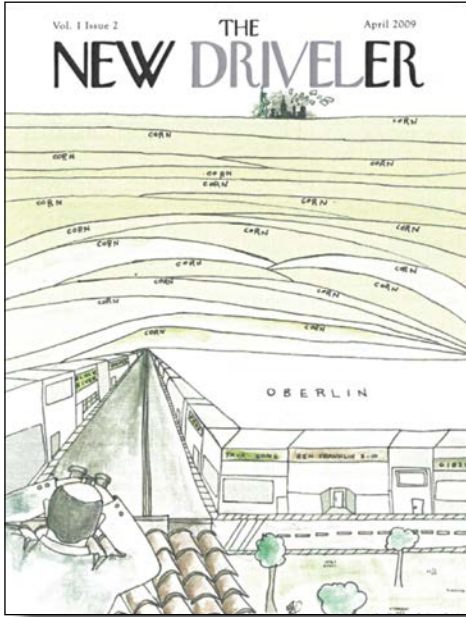
that we would showcase not just on campus, but that local schools, churches, community centers, and organizations could request to learn about the wonderful story of Mary Church Terrell,” says Hudson-Ward. 📖

For a final word, see page 15



Mary Church Terrell and LaThall Langston, her son-in-law, review a newspaper headline related to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 1954.

Enhancing Access to Student Publications



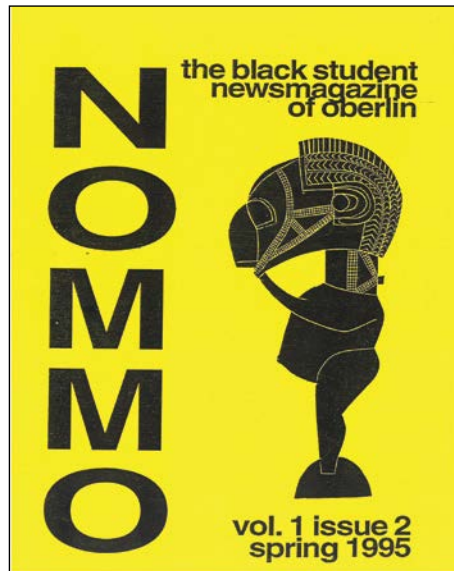
Drivel (2009-2011) was a satirical journal; the cover of this issue parodies Saul Steinberg's iconic 1976 *New Yorker* cover.

publications has been greatly improved through an ongoing project to enhance the existing holdings list with detailed descriptions, subject tags, and genre designations for each title in the collection. College senior Kira Zimmerman has worked closely with Salsich over the past year to analyze each title. Information is added to a searchable spreadsheet that makes it easy to identify titles of potential interest. The addition of this rich metadata opens up new avenues for intellectual engagement with student publications and will be a tremendous aid to those studying Oberlin's history. The new information will also help the libraries identify student publications to prioritize for future digitization projects.

These publications offer an insider's view of Oberlin students' interests through the years. The bulk of the collection is comprised of publications from the mid-20th century to the present day, though some date back as far as the late 19th century. They run the gamut from literary journals filled with poetry and fiction to those that cover politics, race, religion, gender, the environment, and more. A number of humor and satire journals are also included. Many publications saw very

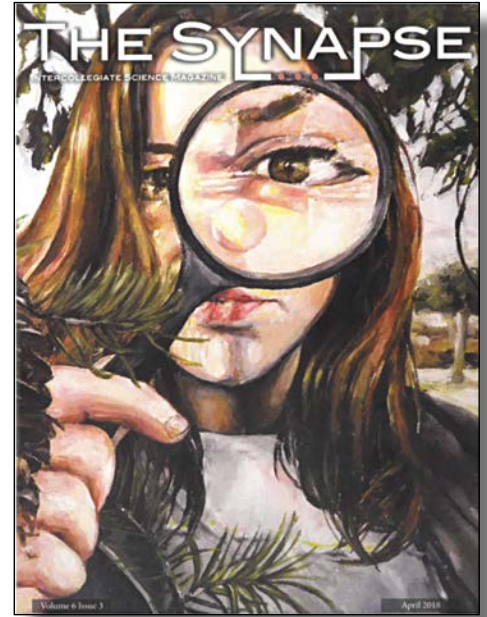
short runs of only one or two years, and a number came out only as a single issue. Zimmerman's descriptions deftly convey the essence of each publication, touching on purpose and goals, major themes addressed, student groups responsible for the publications, whether artwork and illustrations are included, and physical format.

The project has brought to light forgotten publications that dovetail nicely with the Archives' participation in Project STAND, which aims to document student activism across the United States (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2018). Published from 1938 to 1939, *The Campus Observer* addressed such



Nommo (published irregularly 1969-2005) covered issues of concern to African and African American students.

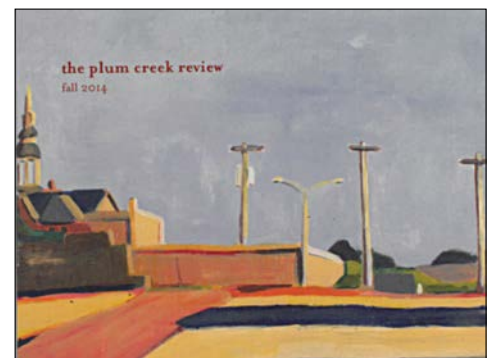
issues as open-mindedness on college campuses and advocated fundraising to bring a German refugee to Oberlin. *Alternatives* covered the women's movement, anti-nuclear campaigns, environmental activism, educational and labor equality, divestment from pro-apartheid corporations, gay rights, and draft deterrence. Other publications give agency to minority voices — *De Vez en Cuando*, published from 1924 to 1932, was a Spanish-language publication published by a "junta administrativa" (administrative council) rather than



The Synapse (2011-present) aims to stimulate campus interest in the sciences.

an editorial staff. It featured poetry, visual art, summaries of campus events, theater scripts, sheet music, literary reviews, and letters to the editor. The Archives' collection includes many other fascinating examples from across the decades that document Oberlin students' engagement with vital issues of the day.

Zimmerman has so far completed descriptions for about 40 percent of the publications in the collection. She expects to finish the project during this academic year. Until then, one can only guess from their titles what *The Naughty Two-Tooter* (1899-1927), *The Rational Patriot* (1917), *Oblivion* (1945-46), *Ruby* (1975-1985), and *Nimrod* (1979-1985) were all about. 📖



The Plum Creek Review (1964-present) publishes prose, poetry, screenplays, interviews, photographs, and artwork.

Libraries and Art Museum Collaborate

The Oberlin College Libraries and the Allen Memorial Art Museum have a long and successful history of collaborative work. Past efforts have included sharing collections for exhibitions, joint work in faculty- and student-curated digital exhibitions, public programs with invited speakers, and coordination on purchases and donations of materials. Over the course of last year and throughout the current year, the two institutions have engaged in several new collaborative efforts, strengthening their relationship.

Counternarratives Art Installation

Currently, the museum and libraries are preparing for *Counternarratives*, an art installation featuring New York-based artist Alexandra (Alex) Bell. Bell will be on campus on Monday and Tuesday, October 29 and 30, for the installation of two art murals from her *Counternarratives* art project series and for several educational and public programs.

Andrea Gyorody, Ellen Johnson '33 Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, notes that the *Counternarratives* project consists, in part, of mounting photo-based murals based on spreads from the *New York Times*. Trained as a journalist, Bell's murals include an original article, which discusses or addresses race in some fashion, with annotations or redactions made by the artist; some of the murals also include a secondary panel where Bell has implemented some of the textual or layout changes she suggests in the annotations. Regarding the murals' content, Gyorody noted, "They are very compelling and offer a way to have rich discussions about journalism, ethics, implicit bias, racism, privilege, and the critical reading of both texts and images and how they interact with one another."

The *Counternarratives* project originally started in New York and has now visited several sites around the country, including a number of college and university campuses. The two installation sites at Oberlin will be the

facades of Mudd Center and the Venturi Art Building. Depending on weather, the outdoor installations should last through the end of fall semester. For details, watch the Allen Memorial Art Museum (www2.oberlin.edu/amam/) and the libraries' social media sites.

Allen Memorial Art Museum's Centennial Celebrations

Notable collaborations of the past year commemorated the museum's centennial and celebrated the work of women in the arts.

During the 2017 Commencement/ Reunion Weekend, the libraries held two exhibitions honoring the museum as part of its centennial celebrations. The first exhibition, curated by the Oberlin College Archives and displayed in the Academic Commons of the Main Library, showcased materials that presented the college's first teaching studio art classes (linear drawing) and the development of the college's fine art collection with the 1904 Charles Olney collection bequest. The Art Library, also commemorating its centennial in 2017 (see *Perspectives*, Fall

2017), curated and housed the second celebratory exhibition, *Cass Gilbert and Oberlin College*. This exhibition explored Gilbert's designs and inspirations for the museum, originally the home for the college's art collection, art classes, visual resources collection, and art library.

Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon

On Saturday, March 3, 2018, the museum and libraries joined forces for their first joint Art+Feminism Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon. Part of the larger international Art+Feminism campaign, a movement to teach people of all gender identities and expressions how to edit Wikipedia content, Oberlin College joined many institutions around the world with the goal to create and improve Wikipedia pages on cisgender and transgender women in the arts. This event, held at the museum, built upon the 2017 Art+Feminism Edit-A-Thon hosted by the Main Library. 📖

Below: Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon participants in the museum.
Photo credit: Andrea Gyorody



Museums and Libraries Summit Held in Oberlin

In June Oberlin College hosted the second Academic Art Museums and Libraries Summit, co-sponsored by the libraries and the Allen Memorial Art Museum and supported by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2017). The summit brought together representatives from the libraries and museums of 18 colleges and universities, who were joined by national and international leaders in the library and museum fields to discuss collaborations between libraries and art museums, with particular attention to best practices for engaging diverse stakeholders and for enhancing the discoverability of library and museum collections to improve their integration into the curriculum.

Johnnetta Betsch Cole '57, Director Emerita of the National Museum of African Art at the Smithsonian Institution and Principal Consultant at Cook Ross Inc., opened the summit with a charge to attendees to move beyond institutional policies of diversity, equity, and inclusion and to “do the work” of increasing diversity in their libraries and museums. Dr. Mia Ridge, Western Heritage Collections Digital Curator at The British Library, began the second day with a discussion of the ways collection visibility is enabled through digital platforms, enhancing scholarship and research. Both speakers urged attendees to leverage their collaborations to increase diversity at their institutions and improve discoverability of their collections



Johnnetta Betsch Cole '57

so that students, faculty, staff, and the community at large will engage with their institutions in new and innovative ways.

Summit presentations focused on various collaborations and best practices and challenges resulting from that work. Plenary sessions were followed by topical discussions, including sharing staff, space, and expertise; bridging cultural gaps between libraries and museums; and including campus and broader communities in their collaborative work. Participants left the summit with new ideas and insights for collaboration and enthusiasm to continue the conversations started at Oberlin.

The summit concludes the efforts supported by a two-year planning grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Director of Libraries Alexia Hudson-Ward and Director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum Andria Derstine serve as co-principal investigators of the grant. The planning grant supported rigorous research, including eight focus groups of Oberlin College stakeholders, four visits by consultants, and four site visits by libraries and museum staff to other institutions that are engaging in collaboration. The data gathered from this research will inform future efforts at the libraries and museum to expand and formalize their collaborative relationships. 📖

Below: President Carmen Ambar welcomes summit attendees.



Digital Humanities Summer Institute

Digital Initiatives Librarian Megan Mitchell attended the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI) at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada in June. The Institute offers over 50 intensive, week-long courses covering a wide variety of topics including text analysis, digital humanities pedagogy, data visualization, digital storytelling, geographic information systems in the humanities, and game-based inquiry. In addition to the courses, there are optional pop-up sessions during lunch breaks, several rounds of lightning talks, and keynote addresses.

Instructors and attendees come from around the world and include faculty, librarians, archivists, educational technologists, and graduate students. It is a highly collaborative community, where people are generous with their expertise and their experience. “I was very excited to go because I’ve heard so much about DHSI from colleagues — it’s considered by many as the gold standard of digital humanities conferences,” remarked Mitchell. “Everyone has a chance to be a student and a teacher at

various points throughout the week.”

Mitchell took the Digital Storytelling course, which provided a great opportunity to see different programs and platforms in action and assess their advantages and limitations. Participants shared a variety of projects from simple to sophisticated, some deeply moving and some witty and playful, but the most inspiring adhered to the first rule of the course: it’s about the story, first and foremost; technology must work in service to the story. Mitchell’s DHSI experience will be useful when talking with faculty and students about potential projects.

For the second year, the Five Colleges of Ohio used money from the Andrew W. Mellon “Digital Collections: from Projects to Pedagogy and Scholarship” grant to send faculty to DHSI. Oberlin faculty attending this summer were Crystal (Cal) Biruk, Associate Professor of Anthropology; KJ Cerankowski, Assistant Professor of Comparative American Studies and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies; and Wendy Kozol, Professor of Comparative American Studies. 📖

Milt Hinton Traveling Exhibition Update

The Conservatory Library’s traveling exhibition *Playing the Changes: The Life and Legacy of Milt Hinton* (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2017) is currently on display at Tuskegee University’s Legacy Museum, where it will remain through the end of 2018. Tuskegee is coordinating an engaging academic and programming schedule to accompany the exhibit.

Library staff have recently worked with the Office of Communications to complete a companion website for the exhibition (go.oberlin.edu/hinton). The site features digital reproductions of many of the exhibition items along with additional audio material of Hinton performing and discussing his life in music. 📖



Milt Hinton (recording studio, New York, 1959) Photo credit: Chuck Stewart courtesy of the Milton J. Hinton Photographic Collection



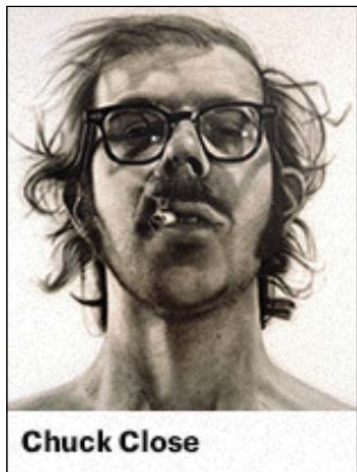
Mary Church Terrell
CIRCA 1905

LABOR

One of a set of four commemorative bookmarks celebrating Mary Church Terrell’s accomplishments in the spheres of learning, labor, leadership and legacy. Bookmarks are available in all campus libraries.

New Digital Resources

The libraries recently acquired the following new resources to support curricular programs and research.



Artifex Press publishes digital versions of *catalogues raisonnés*, which are definitive, comprehensive, and annotated compilations of all the known works of an artist; they are essential tools in the study of art history. Traditionally produced in book form, *catalogues raisonnés* pose a dilemma for scholars, because information about artists and their work is constantly in flux. Artifex Press addresses this problem by moving the *catalogue raisonné* to a digital platform, allowing it to be more accurate and up-to-date than its traditional printed counterpart. Catalogs are updated regularly for provenance, ownership, exhibition, literature, and publication history. Artifex Press also adds documentary materials that round out artists' work and life, such as essays, audio files, and time-lapse videos of artists explaining their techniques. Zoom technology allows viewers to examine art works in close detail, replicating the experience within a gallery. The Allen Memorial Art Museum has in its permanent collection works by many of the artists represented in Artifex Press' *catalogues raisonnés*, including Chuck Close, Sol LeWitt, Jim Dine, Frank Stella, Richard Tuttle, and Robert Irwin, making the resource particularly useful for Oberlin faculty and students.

The De Gruyter e-book pilot project provides perpetual access to nearly 500 e-books published in 2018 from Harvard University Press, Columbia University Press, and University of Toronto Press. De Gruyter, an independent academic publisher based in Berlin, Germany, has partnered with university presses to host the e-books and manage sales to libraries. In this pilot project, a select group of university presses release their newly-published e-books on the De Gruyter platform to participating libraries. The goal is to test an alternative business model for library acquisition of frontlist university press monographs and trade titles that addresses concerns over course adoption and user rights and reduces risk for both publishers and libraries. The content is DRM-free (digital rights management), meaning that titles are available with no restrictions on downloading, printing, or simultaneous access.

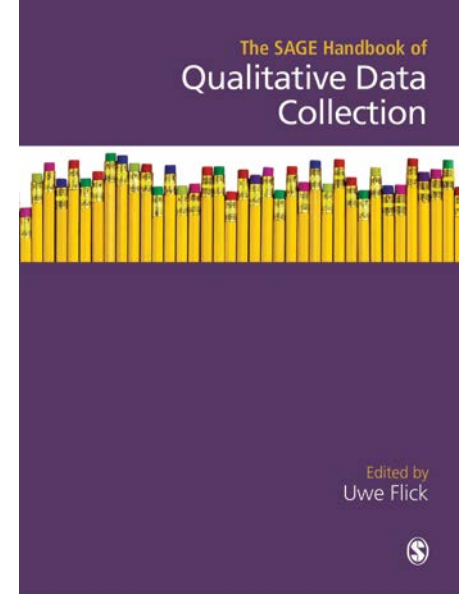
International Tables for Crystallography is the most up-to-date, dynamic, and comprehensive reference work for crystallography and structural science. The online version provides access to all eight volumes in the series, plus a fully interactive symmetry database. It comprises articles and tables of data relevant to crystallographic research and to applications of crystallographic methods in all sciences concerned with the structure and properties of materials. Emphasis is given to symmetry, diffraction methods and techniques of crystal structure determination, and the physical and chemical properties of crystals. Together the online volumes comprise the equivalent of over 6,000 pages of content with discussions of theory, practical explanations, and examples useful in teaching.

Political Extremism and Radicalism in the Twentieth Century: Far-Right and Left Political Groups in the U.S., Europe, and Australia combines primary source material on far-right and fascist movements alongside coverage of radical left groups, allowing researchers to access material from multiple perspectives and providing points for comparison. The collection provides essential historical context on controversial issues across a range of extremist movements, including those involved in religion, race, gender, equal rights, and the environment. With more than 600,000 pages of content and over 40 audio histories with full transcripts, the collection offers researchers a diverse range of content, including campaign materials, propaganda, government records, magazines, and various ephemera that allow researchers to explore extremism and radicalism in new and innovative ways.



The 2018 *SAGE Reference Encyclopedia and Handbook Collection* includes 23 important titles across a range of social science disciplines. Also included are a number of works related to theory and data collection and analysis. Sample titles include *The SAGE Handbook of New Urban Studies*, *The SAGE Handbook of Political Sociology*, *The SAGE Handbook of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery*, *The SAGE Handbook of Neoliberalism*, *The SAGE Handbook of Asian Foreign Policy*, and *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Data Collection*. These sources are particularly useful for providing students with introductory overviews and context for deeper understanding of complex topics.

Territorial Papers of the United States contains the entire corpus of official papers on affairs in the territories held by the Department of State and the Department of the Interior, along with relevant records from the U.S. Senate. From the 1760s to the 1950s the U.S. expanded southward and westward, acquiring territories that spanned from Florida to California and Alaska. Before they evolved into 27 American states, these territories were managed by the U.S. State and Interior departments. The official history of their formative territorial years is recorded in this collection of correspondence, Native American negotiations and treaties, military records, judicial proceedings, population data, financial statistics, and reports on topics such as agriculture, mining, and land ownership. This collection will be useful for scholars in history, politics, Native American studies, and economics.



RIPM Preservation Series: European and North American Music Periodicals is a newly digitized collection of 100 rare music journals not included in other retrospective music history databases. International in scope, it includes music periodicals from the mid-18th through the mid-20th centuries. Each title features cover-to-cover processing, rendering all content searchable, including advertisements. This resource meets the increasing demands for music content with a global perspective, providing researchers access to unique primary source music journals with international coverage. 📖



New Staff



Rebecca Belford joined the libraries in July as the Conservatory Library Technical Services Librarian. She leads a team of four staff members responsible for cataloging, metadata editing, acquisitions, continuations management, and materials preparations. She also participates in the libraries' efforts to improve discovery software and services. Belford received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Vassar College and master's degrees in library science and musicology from the University of Buffalo. Prior to Oberlin, Belford was the music librarian at the University of Oregon, the music cataloger and reference librarian at the University at Buffalo, and the Head of Shared Cataloging and Special Formats Metadata at Brown University.



Paula (Polly) Bratton joined the libraries staff in April 2018 as the Administrative Secretary to the Director of Libraries. She provides secretarial support for the Director and Associate Director, including transcribing recorded dictation, producing correspondence and other documents, and coordinating the Director's calendar. Bratton previously was the Administrative Assistant for German, Russian, and Middle East and North Africa Studies. She has enjoyed getting to know her new colleagues in the libraries and gaining a broader perspective on the variety of work that takes place here. Away from Oberlin, Bratton enjoys golfing, swimming, and assisting with her daughter's extracurricular pursuits in track and field and marching band.



Natalie Gutiérrez-Negrón is the Conservatory Library's Circulation Evening Supervisor. She supervises a large student staff and, during the academic year, manages the Conservatory Library's social media accounts. She was a student employee in the music library at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, where she majored in comparative literature. Prior to Oberlin, Gutiérrez-Negrón was an academic support specialist for the youth department at El Centro de la Raza in Seattle, where she co-spearheaded a youth-led after-school program for young people of color ages 11 to 14. Gutiérrez-Negrón is a native Spanish speaker, former NCAA tennis player, dog walker, ex-cellist, and bad pop-music and house music enthusiast.

Mitchell Receives "YB" Award



Digital Initiatives Librarian Megan Mitchell was recently honored as the 2018 recipient of the college's Yeworkwha Belachew Staff Award. The award recognizes a non-faculty employee who goes "above and beyond" by demonstrating daily commitment and outstanding performance in advancing the college's strategic goals. Those who submitted nominations praised Mitchell's helpful attitude, professionalism,

and extensive knowledge. She was described as "a critical resource," "a true collaborator," "open and creative in her brainstorming," and "always available, cheerful and energetic." Mitchell was also admired for generously sharing her skill set with those new to working in the digital realm and for the transformative impact she has had on student learning, faculty development, and the libraries' shift toward new and innovative technologies and practices.

In 2015 Mitchell, who began her Oberlin career in 1992 as a reference librarian, moved to a new

Photo credit: Bryan Rubin



Rebecca (Becky) Sparagowski started working in March as the Archives and Special Collections Intern. She appreciates the breadth of experience in this position, including processing collections, writing finding guides, curating exhibits, assisting in instruction sessions, and contributing to book repair and conservation work. Sparagowski has worked with electronic records at the Centre for Research Collections and Metadata Services at the University of Edinburgh. She also worked at the Edinburgh Central Library and has taught English as a foreign language. Sparagowski earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola University and a master's in book history and material culture from the University of Edinburgh. Sparagowski enjoys literature, travel, and sports.



Sarah Weeks began work in August as the Associate Director of Libraries/ Head of Technical Services. She provides leadership for the libraries' technical services operations, oversees the budget, and manages the libraries in the absence of the director. Weeks comes to Oberlin from St. Olaf College, where she was Head of Acquisitions and Resource Management and collaborated with colleagues at neighboring Carleton College. Previously she worked as a systems librarian for Yavapai Library Network in Arizona. Weeks earned an MLS from Clarion University and a bachelor's in French from Shippensburg University. Weeks and her family foster dogs through a local animal shelter. She also enjoys reading, gardening, and playing music with her family.



Crystal Willer is the Project Archivist for Music Special Collections in the Conservatory Library, with particular responsibility for the Milton J. and Mona C. Hinton Collection. She also assists with digitization projects, outreach, reference services, and exhibitions. Willer earned an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an MFA in poetry from Washington University, and a BA in English literature from Lewis & Clark College. Previously she worked at UW-Madison's Memorial Library, the Robinson Map Library, and the Wisconsin Historical Society and interned at the Circus World Museum and the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. Willer is completing a book of poems and enjoys exploring record stores, bookstores, and restaurants. 📖

position to support campus-wide digital scholarship, assuming broad responsibility for creating, organizing, and assessing the library's digital collections (see *Perspectives*, Spring 2016). She collaborates frequently with faculty to expand pedagogical approaches by incorporating digital materials into course assignments. She also works closely with Archives and Special Collections staff to identify local historical materials for possible digitization.

Key to Mitchell's responsibilities are outreach to the campus

community about the libraries' digital scholarship and open access activities, advancement of infrastructure supporting digital library collections, and developing digital preservation strategies and policies. She recently oversaw the migration of the college's institutional repository, Digital Commons at Oberlin, to an improved platform. Since taking up her new position, Mitchell, along with a team of several other library staff members, has collaborated with over 20 faculty members to integrate digital scholarship into their courses

and research projects. She also has been instrumental in the successful completion of a multi-year Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant focused on digital scholarship and pedagogy across the Five Colleges of Ohio (see *Perspectives*, Fall 2013).

The award is named for Yeworkwha Belachew, or "YB," as she was generally known, founder of the Oberlin College Dialogue Center and former ombudsperson at the college. The service award was established by former President Marvin Krislov shortly before her death in 2017. 📖

Recent Staff Publications, Presentations, and Awards

Cynthia H. Comer, Academic Commons Coordinator. “Passport to Academic Success: An Engaging, Active-Learning Library Orientation for New Students.” *Planning Academic Library Orientations: Case Studies From Around the World*, edited by Kylie Bailin et al., Chandos Publishing / Elsevier, 2018, pp. 313-23.

Kenneth Grossi, College Archivist. “Taking a Stand: Notable African American Oberlin College Alumni.” Invited presentation for Black History Month, featuring Mary Church Terrell, 1884, Carl Rowan, '47, and Eduardo Mondlane, '53. Huron Public Library, February 20, 2018. Huron, OH.

Eboni A. Johnson, Outreach and Programming Librarian. “Librarian as Archivist in Africatown: a Grassroots Experiment.” Opening keynote address, Ohio Library Council Technical Services Retreat, March 28, 2018. Columbus, OH.

Megan S. Mitchell, Digital Initiatives Librarian. Recipient of the Oberlin College 2018 Yeworkwha Belachew Staff Award. See article on page 12.

Alison S. Ricker, Head of the Science Library. Review of *Oklahoma Winter Bird Atlas*, by Dan L. Reinking. *Choice*, August 2018.

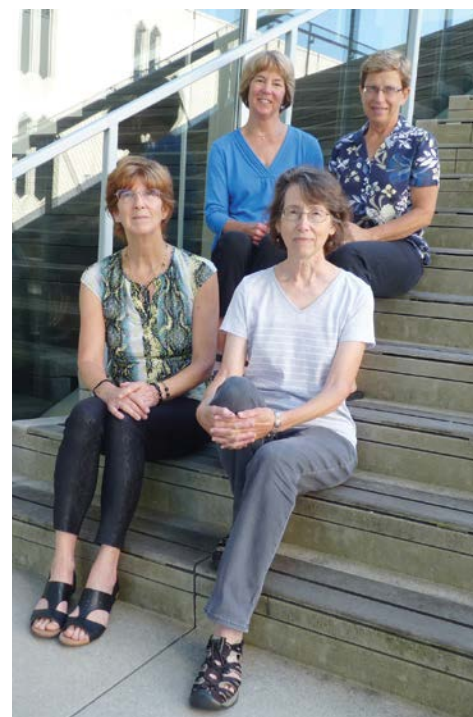
Review of *Speaking for the River*, by James V. Hillegas-Elting. *Choice*, October 2018.

“Be a Force for Science.” Invited presentation, ACRL Science and Technology Section, American Library Association Annual Conference, June 25, 2018. New Orleans, LA.

“Vote as if Your Life Depends on it: Engaging Students in Advocacy for Science and the Environment.” Lightning talk, Great Lakes Science Boot Camp, July 25, 2018. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

Anne Salsich, Associate Archivist. “Sanctuary Communities: Answering to a Higher Law.” Invited presentation, National Conference on Public History Annual Meeting, April 20, 2018. Las Vegas, NV.

Jeremy Smith, Special Collections Librarian and Curator of the James and Susan Neumann Jazz Collection. “An Angle Never Seen: Milt Hinton as Jazz Documentarian.” Presentation, Society for American Music Annual Conference, March 3, 2018. Kansas City, MO. 📖



Staff Service Recognition

Four members of the library staff were honored at the annual service recognition dinner held in May. Pictured on the steps leading to the roof garden of the Kohl Jazz Studies Building are, front row: Lois Kane, Assistant Recordings Cataloger and Phyllis Jones, Senior Recordings Cataloger (both at 45 years); second row: Alison Ricker, Head, Science Library (35 years) and Tammy Martin, Catalog and Metadata Services Assistant (25 years). Faculty and staff are invited to a celebratory dinner with the college president every five years beginning with their 25th anniversary of employment.

Future of Libraries Symposium

Bernard F. Reilly, President of the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), gave the keynote address at the Future of Libraries Symposium held on campus in April. Reilly was invited to speak at Oberlin to help focus attention on the challenges libraries and other cultural heritage institutions face as they work to preserve the human record for future generations of scholars. Since 2001 Reilly has led the growth and expansion of CRL as an international consortium devoted to supporting

advanced research in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. He has written and spoken widely on issues surrounding the integrity and survival of critical documentation and evidence, particularly in the digital age.

Reilly's talk, titled “Digital Amnesia: Money, Technology, Politics, and the Future of Memory Institutions” gave the audience a stark view of how the public record and the social utility of memory institutions are at risk amid the growing privatization of data,

media consolidation, and the non-transparency of the digital cloud. Reilly noted a number of alarming trends in the loss of born-digital information, imperiling the ability of researchers to access historical materials and study the past. He stressed the critical role cultural memory institutions such as libraries, museums, archives, and other repositories must play to ensure long-term accessibility of knowledge through strategic preservation and stewardship of information. 📖



“While I studied hard at Oberlin College and availed myself of all opportunities afforded, I did not deprive myself of any pleasure I could rightfully enjoy.”

— Mary Church Terrell

from A Colored Woman in a White World, 1940



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The Friends of the Oberlin College Libraries provide significant support for special acquisitions and programs that help the libraries fulfill their fundamental role in the academic life of the college. Members receive the *Library Perspectives* newsletter, invitations to Friends programs, and other privileges. Most of all, Friends have the satisfaction of supporting Oberlin's outstanding libraries.

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Friends of the Libraries — Fall Programs

Exhibitions

French Flutes, curated by Michael Lynn, Professor of Recorder and Baroque Flute. This is an extended version of the exhibition offered in the Conservatory Library in early September.

Friday, September 14–Friday, September 28,
Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Kendal @ 25: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Kendal at Oberlin Monday, September 17–Sunday, September 30,
Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Banned Books Week

Friday, September 21–Sunday, September 30,
Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Honoring the Legacy of Civil Rights Pioneer Mary Church Terrell

Thursday, October 4–Sunday, October 7,
Academic Commons, Mudd Center

Open Access Week, “Designing Equitable Foundations for Open Knowledge” Monday, October 22–Sunday, October 28; digital updates on social media

Counternarratives Art Installation

Monday, October 29–end of semester, facades of Mudd Center and the Venturi Art Building

Lectures and Other Events

Book talks, lectures by faculty and visiting scholars

Dates and locations to be determined. Information will be distributed when confirmed.

Happy Birthday to Mary Church Terrell

Celebration with birthday cake. Open to all.

Friday, September 21, 2 p.m., Azariah’s Cafe, Mudd Center

Mary Church Terrell Library: Naming the Main Library

Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m.; outdoors, at the foot of the ramp, Mudd Center entrance; Academic Commons, Mudd Center, in case of inclement weather.

Friends of the Libraries Annual Events

Saturday, November 3

1:30 p.m. Friends Council and Membership Meeting,
Goodrich Room, Mudd Center

5:45 p.m. Friends Annual Reception and Dinner,
Root Room, Carnegie

8:00 p.m. Featured Speaker, Maria Balinska,
Root Room, Carnegie