



## Harlem on My Mind: Abram Hill

Audio clips from oral history interviews contained in the Special Collection Research Center's [Works Progress Administration \(WPA\) oral histories collection](#) were recently featured in the [final installment of Harlem on My Mind](#), where Trymaine Lee learns about the legacy of playwright Abram Hill, who used his work to center Black characters, Black audiences, and Black communities unapologetically.

Thanks to a Recordings at Risk grant from the [Council on Library & Information Resources](#) (CLIR), SCRC digitized the WPA oral history collection audio and interview transcripts, featuring persons who were associated with various WPA projects in the 1930s, including the Federal Theatre Project, Federal Art Project, Federal Music Project, and Federal Writers Project. The digital project will be made available via a new website later this spring.

## Center for Mason Legacies affiliated faculty awarded Summer Team Impact Grant

The [Center for Mason Legacies](#) (CML) has been awarded a Summer Team Impact Grant for "Black Lives Next Door," an interdisciplinary project and collaboration between faculty and students to explore the environs surrounding the early years of George Mason College and its transition to a university. LaNitra Berger (senior director of fellowships in the Office of Undergraduate Education, instructor, and affiliated faculty of CML), Benedict Carton (associate professor of History and associate director of CML), and George Oberle (History Librarian, assistant professor, and director of CML) will lead the summer team of six undergraduate students and two graduate research assistants. [Read more about the project.](#)

## Visiting Writer Series

The Creative Writing Program's Spring 2021 Visiting Writers Series continues Thursday, March 11, with a virtual event featuring short story writer Ayşe Papatya Bucak, author of *The Trojan War Museum and Other Stories*. The event begins at 7 p.m. on Crowdcast. Register [here](#). The Visiting Writers series is sponsored by the Creative Writing Program in conjunction with Mason Libraries. Books will be for sale through [One More Page Books](#) in Arlington, VA.



## Edible Book Festival

Mason Libraries' Edible Book Festival is going virtual this year, and is open to all to participate! The Festival features creative food projects inspired by books and stories. Edible books can physically resemble books, refer to an aspect of a story, or incorporate text.

The Festival runs March 26 – April 1, 2021. The entry deadline is March 26. Entries will be posted on [infoguides.gmu.edu/edible](http://infoguides.gmu.edu/edible) on March 29-30 for viewing, and then voting will be open on Selection Day, March 31. Anyone can vote! Winners will be announced at noon on April 1. Read more [here](#). We look forward to seeing what you create!

## Negotiating for Sustainable Collections

In 2020, the Virginia Research Libraries (VRL) group entered negotiations with Elsevier in an effort to reduce our shared access costs to the Freedom Collection, Elsevier's flagship academic journal bundle. Through a new, one-year agreement for 2021, six members of the VRL – including George Mason University – addressed their priorities for affordability, accessibility, and equity by withdrawing from the Freedom Collection bundle and subscribing to a selection of essential titles instead. [Read the full announcement.](#)



## Giving Day 2021

Mason's annual Giving Day is a day for the Mason community to come together to make a direct impact on students' lives by supporting scholarships, research endeavors, or other needs. Giving Day will take place on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

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