

FIAT LUX

MY FRESHMAN YEAR

NEW TOWN. NEW SCHOOL.
NEW AND BOLD INITIATIVES FOR
YOUR UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

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REFLECTIONS ON MY FRESHMAN YEAR

A LETTER FROM JEFFREY MACKIE-MASON, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

I've just finished my "freshman" year at Cal, having arrived last October 1st. It was a fascinating reminder of what it's like for our young students: new town, new school, new friends to make. One year is a short time for many of us (less than one-fiftieth of my life, *ahem!*), but one year is a huge part of a student's college career. In one year's time, a Berkeley student can discover a passion that will turn into a major, meet a friend who will later become a business partner or invent a solution that has the potential to improve our world. This is why it's so important that we actively make progress on improved services and spaces to support Cal students, now, when they need us.

Over the next 24 pages, you'll read the stories of these students and the Library staff who support them. You'll meet Francisco Peralta, who helps lead a student group that uses Moffitt's new Makerspace to design solutions that minimize the difficulties of disability (page 11). You'll read about librarian Liladhar Pendse, whose experience growing up in Mumbai and Belarus inspired a focus on diversity in his work, including a Doe exhibit of comics from around the world (page 16).

These are just some of the many fascinating people I encounter each day as I pass through Sather Gate, pause on Memorial Glade and walk the halls of our University Library. In case you're worried, my wife ('86) taught me how to pronounce "Sather" correctly!

And, just like a Berkeley freshman, yes, I quickly learned about the legend of the Athena statue presiding over the Doe Library — and hoped that her wisdom did in fact reach me on days with too many meetings and too little coffee. Here are some other things I've learned in my first year.

The Berkeley Library is even more wonderful than I realized. When I give my talk on the relationship between Gutenberg's printing press and the digital revolution, I usually start with a failed predecessor to Gutenberg: John Wycliffe, who published (handwritten!) the first English translation of the Bible. Guess what: we have a rare copy of Wycliffe's bible here in our Bancroft Library. And that's just one small example of the wonderful resources and professionals I've discovered.

I've also learned that Berkeley is an even greater university than I realized. (Yes, you could have told me that!)





PHOTO BY MAX WHITTAKER

As a faculty member at the University of Michigan, I was primarily aware of Berkeley's research prowess. I've now seen, firsthand, the passion faculty and staff have for educating our students — and how that translates into leadership and world-changing innovation. And I've learned what an amazing engine for social mobility Berkeley is: for example, Cal has more students with Pell Grants (that is, those with sufficiently low income to receive federal assistance) than all of the Ivy League colleges combined.

I've also started to get to know many of the great people who support us — that's you! I've discovered how your personal connection to Berkeley translates into a commitment to enabling a great library to serve a great university. On page 12, you'll read about Peter Van Houten, an all-around Cal man who courted his late wife in the North Reading Room in the 1950's and is making a big impact on today's scholars through a major gift to the Moffitt project.

Yes, the past year was very much a year of learning. But much of that is, of course, accomplished by doing our schoolwork. Here at the Library, we've been busy. We've built a great team to lead the bold initiatives we have planned, hiring a new associate university librarian for scholarly resources, our first scholarly communications officer, first director of communications, and a new budget

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A day in the life of the University Librarian: Jeffrey MacKie-Mason works in his Doe office, reads at Lunch Poems and attends a Bancroft event.





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director. We created the first library-wide Communications Office, tasked with improving and expanding our communications to students, faculty, alumni and the public about the services the Library provides and how we advance the mission of this great university. And we secured funding from UC President Janet Napolitano to obtain an engineering feasibility and design study, necessary to submit our \$25 million proposal to the President to expand our Northern Regional Library Facility. (Berkeley operates the facility in Richmond for off-campus shelving and delivery on behalf of the entire UC system of 10 campuses.)

We have also moved forward on several key initiatives that directly support our students and faculty. For example ...

- To support the campus's major initiative in the emerging field of data science, we launched a Data Acquisition and Access program; re-envisioned our Library Data Lab and re-arranged duties to increase staff from one to four data librarians; and hired a post-doctoral fellow in data and software curation.

- In support of 21st century connected learning, we renovated floors 4 and 5 of Moffitt Library (opening 2 November) to provide flexible, technology-rich spaces for both individual and collaborative learning. We renovated the 2nd floor of the Long Library at the Haas School; opened a new Makerspace; created a student-

run tech help desk; and partnered in programs for Berkeley's new Academic Innovation Studio.

- We re-allocated our collections budget to focus \$1 million annually on expensive materials of special interest to multidisciplinary research programs, and allocated other funding to support a streaming media service that allows students and faculty to access over 25,000 films (mostly documentary and educational, but also classics) in the classroom, office, dorm room (or library!). We acquired the Fonoroff collection, now the largest Chinese film studies collection of industry ephemera, photographs, scripts, and movie magazines in North America.

- We digitized over 200,000 items from the Bancroft Library and made them publicly available. Among many additional projects, we also digitized and made accessible over 3,000 rare Chinese books dating back to the 10th century.

I wish I could say that during my freshman year Cal also made it to the Rose Bowl ... but we in the Library don't have a lot to do with that!

I know you all knew this already — I'm the new kid on campus! — but this really is a great place, and we really are doing great things to help our students and faculty — today and future — find, use, evaluate and create information to build a better world. ☀️

PHOTOS BY MAX WHITTAKER

LIFE SKILLS FOR THE INFORMATION AGE

LIBRARIAN CORLISS LEE ON HER MISSION

Corliss Lee was one of the lucky students who came to Berkeley and never left. Lee has worked at Doe and Moffitt Libraries for over 25 years, beginning as an intern while earning a Master's of Library and Information Studies at Berkeley. "I practically lived at Moffitt as a student," she says, "so it's ironic I ended up working there. I guess they never managed to get rid of me!"

As a program coordinator for the Library's Instruction Services Division, Lee focuses on "training students in the life skill of navigating the Information Age." She helps students understand the complexities of the information landscape and learn how to be the best researchers they can be.

"Five years from now they probably won't remember how to use our online catalog," Lee says. "But whenever they have a new subject of inquiry they will know how to look for existing knowledge, and how to evaluate what they find."

As with many librarians, Lee teaches classes in order to connect directly with Berkeley students and faculty. She develops customized library workshops in collaboration with faculty members. She leads roughly 30 classes each semester, and can provide expertise on a startling number of disparate topics, including the films of Alfred Hitchcock, the Japanese American internment, water in the American West, prison abolition, and dystopian fiction.

Lee's own interests are varied and extensive, which augments her enthusiasm for her work. "I'm a generalist, and I love to see other people's research, whether it's about obscure screenplays, South African history, statistics on immigration patterns, the Bronte sisters or a thousand other things," she says. "I get to delve a little bit into each subject."



PHOTO BY ALEJANDRO SERRANO

Lee's favorite moments are when "the lightbulb goes off, and the student discovers their excitement about and capacity for research." Whether she is teaching a workshop or working with students individually at the reference desk, Lee ensures that students get the greatest benefit out of the Library's 1,200+ databases. These enormous resources give researchers access to materials not available via Google — a fact which often comes as a shock to today's digitally-focused scholars.

Lee hopes to inspire Berkeley students to become lifelong learners who can skillfully delve into topics they are passionate about, even as the information landscape continues to change. "I've been here over 25 years and I am still learning things," Lee says. "There's always something new and different in the Library. That's one of the best things about the job." ☀️

DESIGN, TECH AND COMMUNITY

MOFFITT LIBRARY WELCOMES MAKERSPACE

Francisco Peralta's enthusiasm for product design and technology is outpaced only by his love of outreach and collaboration. Co-founder of EnableTech, a student-run group that designs solutions to minimize the difficulties of disability, he's excited about the new Makerspace in Moffitt Library for all those reasons.

The location, Peralta ('18) says, couldn't be better. "When a friend and I were first setting up the 3D printers, lots of people approached us to find out what we were doing." Since the Makerspace is in an open space and not walled off, "it's going to be a great ecosystem where everyone can communicate and collaborate."

The 3D printers in Moffitt's Makerspace enable users to create three dimensional objects by laying down successive layers of material. The advent of this technology has spurred on the Maker movement, a diverse subculture that is reconnecting people to the possibilities of hands-on creation and construction.

EnableTech was cofounded by Peralta with mechanical engineering students Drew MacPherson ('17) and Kevin Haninger (B.S.'12, M.S.'15). Peralta says, "It's cool because EnableTech offers a platform where people with disabilities can get help. Could be someone like me with my prosthetic leg, or someone with Parkinson's or in a wheelchair, who needs help with tasks like opening windows." Current or potential projects include a glove that provides greater grip strength for people with spinal cord injuries, an app that will make it easier for people with physical disabilities to get emergency assistance and a low-cost robotic arm to assist people in wheelchairs.

UC Berkeley's long history with disability rights and the nationally recognized Disabled Students' Program were part of Peralta's attraction to the



PHOTO BY AISHA HAMILTON

school. "I couldn't think of a better place to be," says Peralta, who was born without a femur.

Raised in Chile and in southern California, Peralta studied robotics in high school and arrived at Berkeley as a mechanical engineering major. But when he took a cognitive science class suggested by a fraternity brother, he "fell in love," as he puts it, and changed his major. "Understanding the brain will enable me to design better — and it also helps me to get through rough moments, like dealing with stress and setbacks." This semester he is especially enjoying a philosophy course on the theory of meaning, which helps him "think more expansively about the world and about people." 🌟

Support from the UC Berkeley Student Technology Fund made the purchase of Moffitt's 3D printers possible. The venture represents a partnership between the University Library, Educational Technology Services, and Student Affairs Information Technologies.

ALL-AROUND CAL MAN PETER VAN HOUTEN

MAJOR GIFT TO MOFFITT LIBRARY HELPS FUND REVITALIZATION



PHOTO BY LUISA CONLON

Each year at Berkeley's Homecoming, Peter Van Houten does a costumed campus history tour in which he enacts the roles of important university figures. This fall, at age 82, he performed as celebrated professors Charles Mills Gayley, Joseph Le Conte, Henry Morse Stephens, and — dressed in clerical robes — as Reverend Samuel Wiley. Van Houten relishes spending these hours sharing highlights from Berkeley's storied past with alumni and students. And, he adds, "I do it partly because I'm a ham!"

Van Houten is an all-around Cal man. As a volunteer outreach representative for Berkeley, he visits several dozen high schools each fall and spring semester to share his passion for the university with the next generation of students.

"I enjoy young people," he says. "It's fun for me to be with them. And I love Berkeley so much, it's really a labor of love, to let the kids know how much the university has to offer."

Van Houten has a special interest in assisting underrepresented minorities and students who are the first in their families to go to college. He believes this work is particularly important in remote areas of California, such as the schools near his hometown of Twain Harte, where students may be less connected to the opportunities in the Bay Area.

"My involvement brings the personal touch to the application process," he says. "One of my big goals is making Berkeley as personable as possible. Not a monolith, but filled with people who care."



PHOTO BY LUISA CONLON

Peter Van Houten with two students whom he mentored through the process of applying to Berkeley. Karthik Prasad, on the left, is a bioengineering major who will graduate in 2017; Darian Caton, on the right, is a nutrition science major in her sophomore year.

PRESENTING A GIFT

Care describes Van Houten's own dedication to the education and inspiration of Berkeley students. This fall, Van Houten gave a \$500K gift to the Library to help create the campus' premier learning space for undergraduates. The first phase of the reimagined Moffitt Library will be on view in November, when the doors open on the revamped fourth and fifth floors.

Along with many collaborative and technology-optimized spaces, the new Moffitt boasts a presentation practice room — a facility Van Houten feels a particular connection to. Through his career and volunteer work, he has come to appreciate the need in today's world for presentation and interview skills.

"I've always been passionate about helping people learn to express themselves in positive and productive ways," he says. "I'm delighted that the renovated Moffitt is supporting this." In honor of his gift, Moffitt's fourth floor room will be named the Van Houten Presentation Studio.

This isn't Van Houten's first contribution to the University Library. Van Houten has worked for many years with his Class of '56 in building the Library Preservation Fund Endowment.

STUDENT, STAFF AND VOLUNTEER

Van Houten earned his B.A. ('56) from Berkeley in physical education; then a teaching certificate and M.A. in education, before completing his Ed.D. in education in 1973.

While at Berkeley, Van Houten met Betty Jane Mitchell ('57). The couple used to go on study dates, he recalls "Betty and I pretty much lived in the North Reading Room. I remember a professor saying to me, I don't think I've ever seen you out of there! We spent lots of time studying together, sitting side by side at the big tables."

The Van Houtens had five children, one being Wendy Hanson ('80) in Library development, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Betty passed away last year. While working on his dissertation, Van Houten was also working at Berkeley, and was helping to raise his five children.

Van Houten's professional career at Berkeley spanned forty years, from 1960 to his retirement in 2000, at which time he received the Berkeley Citation. His focus was working directly with students, in roles that included associate dean of students, dean of orientations, and advisor to pre-graduate, pre-law, and pre-med students. He is still in contact with students whom he advised.

Van Houten thinks of Berkeley as a second home — one in which he has spent decades of his life. When he's not on campus, Van Houten can still relive the Berkeley experience by relaxing in his 'Cal room' — a space filled with photos, keepsakes and other memorabilia.

"I'm sort of an old firehorse," he continues. "After graduation I get a bit sad because school is out. Then when August is here I'm all excited again because the school year is going to start!" ☀️

NOBEL LAUREATE USES BIG GIVE TO SUPPORT LIBRARY

Big Give, the high-spirited, 24-hour annual fundraising marathon, brings the whole Berkeley community together to show support for the university. Among the thousands of Big Give donors are faculty, alumni, students, parents and staff — including both first-time and longstanding donors.

Nobel Laureate Randy Schekman, professor of molecular and developmental biology, is a loyal donor who uses the Big Give to demonstrate his appreciation of the Library.

Dr. Schekman's support for the Library stems from his experience as an undergraduate at UCLA. The library, he remembers, was where his interest in molecular biology took root. "It was my refuge and place of quiet and reflection away from the crowds in my large undergraduate classes."

"My interest in molecular biology research blossomed in the stacks of books and journals, and in endless hours reading in one of the study carrels scattered in the corners of the reading rooms. Whether through print or digital resources, the library remains a focal point to reflect on the world of scholarship," he adds.

Schekman won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his role in revealing the machinery that regulates the transport and secretion of proteins in our cells. UC Berkeley's




PHOTO BY ELENA ZHUKOVA

Berkeley professor and Nobel Laureate Randy Schekman is a passionate Library supporter.

22nd Nobel Laureate, he shared the prize with James E. Rothman of Yale University and Thomas C. Südhof of Stanford University.

Schekman, who joined UC Berkeley in 1976, is noted for his commitment to open access for scientific research, and serves as editor-in-chief for the open access journal *eLife*. 🌞

THE BERKELEY EFFECT  11.17.16

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Thursday, November 17, visit BIGGIVE.BERKELEY.EDU to contribute any amount to the University Library during Berkeley's one-day giving campaign and help us remain in the top tier worldwide. **From the smallest gift to the largest, your generosity to the University Library holds truly transformative power!**

GLOBAL COMICS EXHIBIT DRAWS ON LIBRARIAN'S DIVERSE BACKGROUND

LILAH DAR PENDSE: FROM MUMBAI TO BELARUS TO BERKELEY



PHOTO BY ALEJANDRO SERRANO

In 1991, Liladhar Pendse was working in food services at UCLA Catering after a move from the Soviet Union in search of a fresh start. A polyglot fluent in seven languages and familiar with an additional 13, Pendse frequently visited the library to borrow books from Russia and India. There, he encountered a librarian who ended up changing the course of his life.

Eudora Loh encouraged Pendse to attend classes and to consider librarianship as a career. “I was intimidated by librarians and computers,” Pendse recounts, “but she was so kind, showing me how to locate a book and walking me to the stacks. We started talking, became friends, and in time she encouraged me

to attend classes at a local community college.”

Twenty five years and four degrees later, Pendse combines his passion for diversity, his love of language and his quest to share knowledge and information as a scholar librarian at UC Berkeley. This month, Pendse’s rich understanding of global materials is on display in an exhibit of comics and graphic novels from a dizzying array of cultures, including Egypt, Poland, South Africa, Israel, the Czech Republic, Colombia, and Japan.

“Beyond Tintin and Superman: The Diversity of Global Comics” can be viewed in Doe Library’s Bernice Layne Brown Gallery through March 2017. Pendse hopes that the exhibit will inspire viewers to reflect on issues treated

in the materials — around censorship, race relations, political agendas and gender biases.

“The world has always been a violent place,” says Pendse. “And so my question as a professional is how can I contribute to peace? Through building our uniquely rich collections, and making information available, I believe I am contributing to increased understanding in the world and in cultures at large.”

FROM INDIA TO BELARUS AND THE U.S.

Pendse grew up primarily in Mumbai, but spent parts of his youth in several regions of the then-Soviet Union due to the tumultuous political climate of the time. Although he had earned an M.D. in Internal Medicine in Belarus, Pendse realized he had to start over when he moved to the United States. He worked a variety of jobs while living in Los Angeles, and eventually found that education was his path to success.

He earned his B.A. in History and Arabic/Islamic Studies with honors from UCLA in 2004. After working in the UCLA library, he earned his M.L.I.S. and an M.A. in Latin American Studies. Following positions at UCLA’s Library and at Princeton, he came to Berkeley’s University Library in 2012. In 2013, he defended his Ph.D. at UCLA.

Growing up in three very different cultures inspired Pendse to focus his work on inclusion and acceptance of different types of people. He hopes that the materials in the “Beyond Tintin and Superman: The Diversity of Global Comics” exhibit help break down cultural barriers by offering authentic, personal accounts of social and political issues around the world.

The comics on display were curated by Pendse and include comics from his own personal collection. There is a copy of the DC Comics 1987 classic, *Watchmen*, as well as graphic novels and comics covering atomic bomb survivors, young Yemeni women forced into marriage, a collection created in response to the January 2015 terrorist attack on the French satirical weekly magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, love in a Japanese boys’ boarding school, and a translation of a two-volume work of a French professor of Middle Eastern studies/historian and an award-winning artist that tells the complicated stories of the United States involvement in the Middle East.

‘ONE PERSON, ONE TONGUE’

At UC Berkeley, Pendse’s title is as long as an arm — Librarian for East European, Armenian, Caucasus, Central Asian, Balkan, Baltic, and

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Mongolian Studies, and Acting Librarian for Sub-Saharan African Studies.

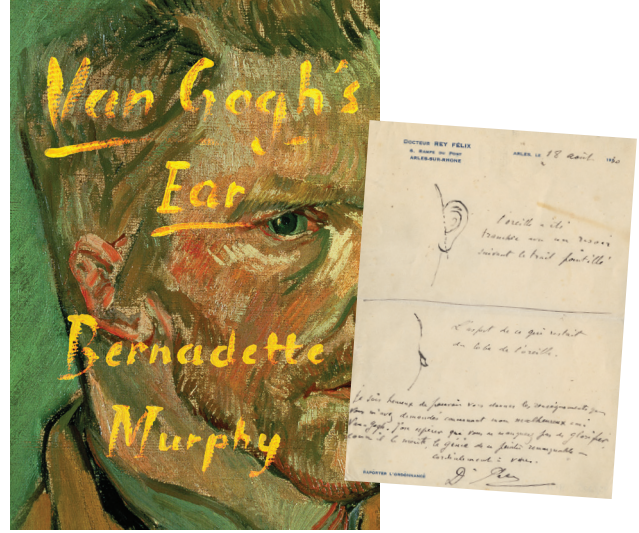
His knowledge of many different languages has empowered him to work effectively across a diverse group of faculty, students and visiting scholars. Along with fluency in Marathi and Hindi/Urdu, Russian, Gujarati, Portuguese, Spanish, and English, he is at an intermediate level in Azerbaijani, Sanskrit, Arabic, and Turkish; and basic in Armenian, Romanian, French, Italian, Swahili, Polish, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Slovak, and Turkmen.

Previous exhibits Pendse has helped curate include displays of posters and printed works from Cuba and Soviet Union during the Cold War, and on the 1867 purchase of Alaska, highlighting the Library's Russian-American collections. He is involved in planning several future exhibits, one on popular literature in Brazil, and another on Bollywood and Africa.

Asked about his extraordinary gift for languages, Pendse ties it to an abiding interest in understanding between cultures. A few years ago, an elderly woman in Istanbul repeated a saying to him: “one person one tongue (Bir lisan bir insan).” Pendse comments that “the more languages, the better you can reach out to other people.” Pendse’s varied life path has fostered in him a deep personal appreciation of diversity.

“The world of Berkeley is very meaningful to me,” he notes, especially “the spirit of flexibility and seeing things from others’ perspectives. Maybe you don’t agree, but you listen and you learn. Passing through Sproul Plaza on my way home from work, I feel invigorated and enriched by all the different people and activities. The vibrancy and the diversity of our community always inspires me!” ☀️

See a video of Pendse discussing comics from the exhibit online at: <http://bit.ly/2dQQHDG>



LIBRARY TREASURE HELPS SOLVE A VAN GOGH MYSTERY

A small piece of paper from 1930, housed at the Bancroft Library, is at the center of a longstanding mystery, a new book, and a PBS documentary.

We all know that Vincent Van Gogh sliced off his ear in 1888 — but the question of exactly how much of his ear was severed has long been controversial. For a book on the subject, British author Bernadette Murphy needed to clear up the confusion. So she rang up the Bancroft, which holds the archives of Irving Stone, author of *Lust for Life*, a popular biography of the artist.

Library assistant David Kessler, now retired, searched through an uncataloged box of Stone’s papers, and finally retrieved a signed letter from Van Gogh’s doctor with a sketch of his left ear detailing the self-mutilation. The sketch attested to the fact that the artist removed all but the earlobe.

That tale and more are now revealed in Murphy’s newly published book *Van Gogh’s Ear: The True Story*. The letter was also the centerpiece of a PBS documentary on the artist premiering Dec. 14, which was based on Murphy’s book.

The 1930 letter, on loan from the Bancroft, was on display in Amsterdam’s Van Gogh Museum before returning home to Berkeley. ☀️

Adapted from a campus NewsCenter story

BOXER GIFTS PAPERS TO BANCROFT

LECTURE SERIES LAUNCHED AT BERKELEY

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) is donating more than two decades of her congressional papers to the Bancroft Library. She also will be the first speaker in the new Barbara Boxer Lecture Series at UC Berkeley, an annual event launching in 2017 that will focus in part on women in leadership.

“After a 40-year career in elected office, I am so proud to leave my papers to the greatest public university in the world,” said Boxer. “I hope these archives will provide insights for historians, students and future generations who want to know what it was like for women when we were just beginning to break the glass ceiling.”

Boxer was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982. Ten years later, she became a U.S. senator from California. During her four terms in the Senate, Boxer has burnished her reputation as a powerful advocate for families, children, consumers, California and the environment, as well as a leader in efforts to rebuild the nation’s ailing infrastructure. She has been a noted leader on several key Senate committees.

The new Barbara Boxer Lecture Series, to launch in spring 2017 with a talk by the Senator, is co-sponsored by the Bancroft Library and Berkeley’s Institute of Governmental Studies.

Elaine Tennant, director of the Bancroft Library, said the Boxer papers “are an important addition to our political papers collection.”

Tennant also noted that the Boxer papers will complement the many existing Bancroft collections that “document the lives and work of women from antiquity to the present.” ☀️

Abridged from a campus NewsCenter story



TOP: MAX WHITTAKER; MIDDLE AND BOTTOM: PEG SKORPINSKI

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BEYOND TINTIN AND SUPERMAN: THE DIVERSITY OF GLOBAL COMICS

BERNICE LAYNE BROWN GALLERY, DOE LIBRARY
THROUGH MARCH 2017
CHECK LIB.BERKELEY.EDU FOR HOURS

This exhibit showcases comics and graphic novels from a dizzying array of countries, including Egypt, Poland, South Africa, Israel, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Colombia, and Japan. While treating societal issues generated by censorship, race relations, political agendas and gender biases, the comics also provide great enjoyment through their striking imagery and cultural diversity. On display are the DC Comics 1987 classic, *Watchmen*, as well as graphic novels and comics covering atomic bomb survivors, young Yemeni women forced into marriage, a collection created in response to the January 2015 terrorist attack on the French satirical weekly magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, and love in a Japanese boys' boarding school, among many others.

THE GIFT TO SING: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LEON F. LITWACK AND THE BANCROFT LIBRARY AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLECTIONS

THE BANCROFT LIBRARY GALLERY
THROUGH FEBRUARY 2017
CHECK LIB.BERKELEY.EDU FOR HOURS

"The Gift to Sing" displays treasures such as Harlem Renaissance first editions with strikingly illustrated dust jackets, and a 1845 copy of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* with an inscription by the famous abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. One of UC Berkeley's iconic professors and a noted scholar, Leon Litwack retired from a storied career in 2007. His collection — arguably the world's finest private collection of books on African American history and culture — will be coming to the Bancroft as a bequest.