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## **CML News**

The first woman and first African American was sworn in as the fourteenth Librarian of Congress on September 14, 2016, by the Chief Justice of the United States, John G. Roberts, Jr. **Carla D. Hayden** has a long history as a librarian who has championed accessibility from her earliest days in the Chicago Public Library system. Now, as the head of the largest library in the world, Dr. Hayden is committed to making knowledge and information available to all. She praised the work of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) on her tour in November by saying, "Thank you for being a special force with a special mission. You are a shining example of accessibility." Best of luck to Dr. Hayden!

## **Highlights**

Ah, humanity! How relentlessly and terribly and beautifully we strive for perfection in all aspects of our lives: work, love, civic duty, knowledge, and self. And how relentlessly and terribly and beautifully we too often fail. **Sam Anderson** shares his philosophical musings on the quest for perfection in the context of Michelangelo's *David*, the famous statue in Florence, Italy. "David's Ankles" highlights this centuries-old pursuit.

In "Dixon," a story by **Bret Anthony Johnston**, a father goes to extreme lengths to save his teenage daughter from a drug-fueled life, sacrificing his ethics and morals and possibly his marriage. Can we judge such desperation?

And who hasn't been inspired by those who choose to live their convictions no matter the cost? Two appreciations, one of Muhammad Ali ("Muhammad Ali Became a Big Brother to Me" by **Kareem Abdul-Jabar**), the other of Elie Wiesel ("Remembering Ice Cream with Elie Wiesel" by **Jane Eisner**), portray the depth of

courage, conscience, and the power of action each embodied. We lost both men this year, but their lives made us better.

### **Top Picks**

If you dare to imagine the future of the perfect relationship, please settle in for two delightfully mind-bending stories. "The Immortal Milkshake" by **Thomas Pierce** combines artificial intelligence, love, and science to build a satisfying mix of compelling and repelling. And **Karen Russell** gives us "The Bog Girl," perhaps to remind us that even when we think we've found the perfect mate, we will always find *something* to complain about. Is a two-thousand-year age difference a deal-breaker?

Plus, there's plenty to learn and consider in the Winter issue of CML: the latest in eye research & development in "A Cure in Sight" by **David Dobbs**; how vigorously tech companies are working to police internet cyber-bullying in "The Digital Justice League" by **Andy Greenberg**; and the state of the US Coast Guard in the ever-melting Arctic in "Aboard the Last Ship to Nowhere" by **McKenzie Funk**. We aren't perfect yet, but we won't stop finding our way. Join the trip.

### **And Special Thanks To ...**

**Hank P.**, from Phoenix, AZ, an enthusiastic listener who said, "You guys put spaces between the articles so I can think a bit. It's a wonderful service, and I'm thrilled that it's FREE!"

**Happy New Year from Pam, Annie, Jay, Mike, and Raquel!**