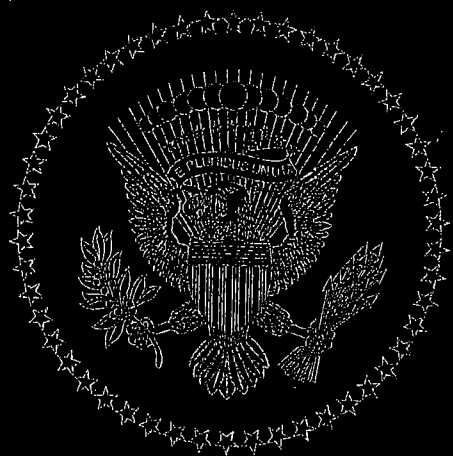




MILLENNIUM EVENINGS
AT
THE WHITE HOUSE

HONOR THE PAST — IMAGINE THE FUTURE

WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

We stand at the convergence of a new century and the next millennium—a milestone in human history. That is why the President and First Lady created the White House Millennium Council—to set some themes, engage the federal agencies and invite all Americans to participate in meaningful activities through the year 2000.

The overall theme of the White House millennium activities is "Honor the past; imagine the future." The President and First Lady are inviting states, communities, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, youth groups and all citizens to participate in activities that strengthen our democracy, improve communities and give lasting gifts to the future.

The Millennium Evenings at the White House are a series of lectures and cultural showcases that highlight creativity and inventiveness through our ideas, art and scientific discoveries. The lectures present prominent scholars, creators and visionaries and are accessible to the public via broadcast and cybercast. As the oldest, continuous venue of significance for the arts in America, the White House will continue to showcase the nation's recognized masters and our new talent.

One of the best ways to imagine the future is to preserve what we value of our past for the new millennium. The President has proposed a Millennium Fund to "Save America's Treasures"—a public-private partnership to preserve the nation's documents, artifacts, monuments and historic sites most in danger of deterioration. The President has also proposed funds to re-encase the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights before those precious founding documents are at serious risk. The restoration of the Star-Spangled Banner is the highest priority millennium project at the Smithsonian Institution.

The year 2000 also coincides with some important American anniversaries: the 200th anniversary of the White House; the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress in the new Capitol, and the bicentennial of the Library of Congress.

Although the White House Millennium Council celebrates American achievements, it will also mark the international significance of the millennium. As a "nation of nations," the United States has received great gifts from the world and given back to the world in kind. In hopes of furthering international communications and understanding, the President has announced that the United States will participate in Expo 2000, the World's Fair in Hannover, Germany. The White House Millennium Council communicates with other countries about their programs, identifying common ideas and projects. The promise of a new millennium offers nations the opportunity to reflect on the state of democracy around the world and the Council will encourage that exploration.

HONOR THE PAST — IMAGINE THE FUTURE

REMARKS BY FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON AT THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Archives
August 15, 1997

Thank you very much, Governor John Carlin. And I want to thank, on behalf of all of us, the World Children's Choir and their artistic director, Sondra Harnes. I learned that their credo is to sing together to create friendship, peace, and health for themselves and the planet, and I want to thank them for contributing to this event this morning.

I'm also very pleased to welcome distinguished ambassadors and members of the Cabinet and heads of many independent agencies here, because we are gathered to announce an important effort that will involve not just those of us who are here in this wonderful hall, but Americans and literally people all over the world.

A few years ago most of us gave little thought to the approaching millennium. We didn't spend time conjuring what it would be like to drop the 19 from the calendar and our computer and replace it with a 20. Rarely did we see references even to 2000 in advertising or on web pages or in political speeches.

Recently, however, there's a growing excitement about the idea that we will be living in a rare, historical moment—the conclusion of a century and the birth of a millennium. No matter where we are in the country, the celebrations of the millennium will reflect the creativity, diversity and raw energy of Americans. And I have no doubt that such celebrations will include everything from the most solemn event to the most exotic. Thousands of Americans have already booked reservations on cruise ships and at hotels for New Year's Eve in 1999. Companies are devising projects to be completed in the year 2000. Computerized clocks are busily counting down the remaining seconds of the 20th century. From Boston to Cincinnati to Anchorage to Beverly Hills to Times Square in New York, communities are planning their own festivities to usher in this new era.

When the millennium finally arrives, none of us will find ourselves suddenly transformed. We won't be trading our earthly jeans and t-shirts for space attire, and we hope that the only bolts of light in the sky will be the fireworks that we've been planning. Still, the coming of this new century and millennium presents us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past, on where we've been, on who we are, and what we hope to become.

When the President and I first began to talk about how as a country we could mark this turn of the calendar, you might guess that we came back to one idea—what it meant to build a bridge to the 21st century. When the President talked about that bridge, he didn't mean, of course, a real bridge, but he did mean one that would metaphorically be constructed by the gifts all Americans

would give to the future—gifts that will help rekindle our spirit of democracy, renew our commitment to citizenship, and unleash the full creative and intellectual potential of the American people as we chart our common future.

I'm especially pleased to be here for this announcement in this great repository of American democracy, because starting now we will be talking about ways to honor the past and imagine the future. The National Archives is a fitting place to announce a special White House effort to recognize the important milestone ahead of us. Beginning this year and lasting until 2001, the White House will lead a national millennium program for the American people to appreciate our common heritage and rejoice in our creativity.

As a living museum of our nation's history, the White House provides a unique venue for showcasing our nation's art, culture, scholarship, scientific explorations, and technological discoveries. Over the next three years, the White House will sponsor a range of cultural and scientific activities that reflect the optimism and faith in our capacity to build a better future. Among them are a White House lecture series, co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, that will feature prominent men and women, not just from America but from around the world, who can provoke our thinking about the past and the future; and an American cultural showcase that will spotlight our finest artists and their talents. As of today, you can even log on to a new millennium program web site on the White House home page to learn more about the activities that are being planned.

Other special commemorative events will coincide with the 200th anniversary in the year 2000 of the first occupant at the White House, John Adams; the 200th anniversary of the first meeting of Congress; and the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Library of Congress.

Around the nation's capital, some of our leading cultural institutions are working on their own millennium projects. The Library of Congress is putting part of its collection online for students, teachers, and citizens everywhere. The Smithsonian will expand its Festival of American Folk Life on the Mall in the summer of 2000, and will feature children from all over the world making and playing with toys unique to their countries and cultures. Some of you have already enjoyed a free performance on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center. These performances are part of a run-up to the Center's yearlong artistic festival in 2000.

Each of these activities offers citizens a chance to learn about our nation's history, to remember it, and even help to shape it. Each is a reminder that our nation's history is part of our own personal history, too.

Building a future worthy of our children depends on what all of us do in our families, workplaces, communities, and nations. We do that every day, I know, but now we will be able to reflect on our past and count the blessings we enjoy as citizens of a free and democratic country. I hope we will all be inspired to give our own gifts to the future, whether by helping to build a new park, cleaning up a river, restoring an old theater, raising money for a library, saving family papers and photographs, encouraging children to interview their grandparents, volunteering in our communities—all of these are measures of ourselves as citizens in a democracy.

As the President said in his State of the Union address earlier this year, our economy is measured in numbers and statistics, and that's very important, but the enduring work of our nation lies in our shared values and our soaring spirit. By giving our own gifts to the future, we can make sure that when the new millennium finally comes, we won't just be celebrating a new year; we will be celebrating the enduring strength of our democracy, the renewal of our sense of citizenship, and the full flowering of the American mind and spirit.

I hope all Americans will join us at the White House, either literally or figuratively, in the years ahead in helping to celebrate this milestone. And I'm particularly pleased that the chief bridge-builder for our nation is here today to talk more specifically about what we will be planning and doing in the years to come.

So it gives me great personal pleasure to introduce the President of the United States.

HONOR THE PAST — IMAGINE THE FUTURE

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As the year 2000 draws near, we must ask ourselves, what will it take to meet that challenge, to define that future, to prepare ourselves for a new century and a new millennium. What of our values and heritage will we carry with us. And what gifts shall we give to the future.

All over the world, nations and communities are preparing to observe the millennium with a wide variety of efforts. The United Kingdom will build bridges, museums, new parks, and a new university. Germany will hold Expo 2000, the first World's Fair to mark a millennium. Today I am pleased to accept Chancellor Kohl's invitation for the United States to participate in Expo 2000, joining 143 other organizations and nations.

Australia will host the 2000 Summer Olympics. Iceland will celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Leif Ericson's voyage to the New World.

The White House Millennium program will guide and direct America's celebration of the millennium by showcasing the achievements that define us as a nation—our culture, our scholarship, our scientific exploration. I appreciate the interest that the First Lady has shown in this endeavor, and I'm pleased she will play a leading role in our ongoing efforts. I also appreciate the work that she and her staff have done already to bring us to this point today. And I want to thank Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, formerly Director of the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities, for agreeing to direct the White House Millennium Program Office. Thank you, Ellen.

Today I want to talk about what we are already doing to prepare ourselves for the 21st century and to make this new millennium our own. First and most important, we are making education our children's first priority. They will, after all, live out most of their lives in this new millennium and the new century. This month I signed historic legislation that balanced the budget but also includes the largest investment in education in a generation from early childhood to college and beyond. In the coming months, I will continue to fight to finally establish high and measurable national standards of academic excellence.

By the year 2000, we have set a goal of connecting every single classroom and library in the entire United States to the Internet. I thank the Congress for funding that endeavor, and the private sector for helping us, so far, to stay slightly ahead of schedule. We must redouble our efforts to make sure that every one of our fellow citizens has the tools to succeed in the new century.

Second, we have to continue the path that has restored optimism and expansiveness to our economy, but now to ensure that all Americans have a chance to benefit from it.

Third, we have to ensure that our unique and vibrant cultural life flourishes in the new century and that our rich history is treasured and preserved. I am pleased that the National Endowment for the Humanities will sponsor a nationally televised series of Millennium Minutes that spotlight a thousand years of important people, events, and achievements. The National Endowment for the Arts Leadership Project for the Millennium will tell America's stories

through the arts and initiate projects, such as new boys choirs modeled after the acclaimed Boys Choir of Harlem. The NEA will also send teams of photographers across the country to capture their vision of America at the turn of a new century. And the President's Committee on Arts and the Humanities will launch its Worthy Ancestors program, bringing together commercial, creative, and nonprofit sectors to save significant cultural materials from folk, popular, and classical traditions.

Fourth, we must take steps to make sure that the documents of our democracy are safe for the ages, for the millions of Americans and new immigrants and foreign visitors who view them every year. Believe it or not, the documents—the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence—are seriously threatened by the wear of time and the elements, unless we act in the next three years to save them. That is why I am very pleased that the National Archives, under Governor Carlin's leadership, has a three-year plan to ensure that they will also survive into the next millennium.

The highest project for the millennium at the Smithsonian is to save our Star Spangled Banner by 2001—the very flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem that became our National Anthem.

Fifth, we must continue to push the limits of science and technology, and to continue to explore the universe. The July 4th landing of the Sojourner Mars Probe transfixed the world. It is inspiring a new generation, and I hope very much that it has convinced a majority of Americans to continue to support our exploration of space. NASA will launch new robotic missions to Mars in 1998, 2001, and 2003.

The National Science Foundation will be 50 years old in the year 2000. To celebrate its anniversary and encourage young people to pursue careers in science, the Foundation will launch its National Science Foundation 2000 program, a national campaign on the importance of science, engineering and mathematics.

Now, as the millennium turns, as we have all seen from countless reports, so do the dates on our computers. Experts are concerned that many of our information systems will not differentiate between dates in the 20th and the 21st century. I want to assure the American people that the federal government, in cooperation with state and local government and the private sector, is taking steps to prevent any interruption in government services that rely on the proper functioning of federal computer systems. We can't have the American people looking to a new century and a new millennium with their computers—the very symbol of modernity and the modern age—holding them back, and we're determined to see that it doesn't happen.

Sixth, we must make sure that the land God has given us is preserved for generations to come. At the beginning of the 20th century, Theodore Roosevelt said, "We are not building this country of ours for a day, it is to last through the ages." As we enter the new century, we have a moral obligation to continue that charge. We've already acted to protect some of our most treasured places—from Lake Tahoe to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to the Florida Everglades. And we are working to address the very real problem of climate change for the next century.

Next we must do everything we can to revive the spirit of citizen service in the new century. Every American ought to have the chance to serve. And I am very pleased that AmeriCorps, our national service program, has set a goal of doubling the number of full-time AmeriCorps volunteers by 2000. I'm also pleased that the Peace Corps will build on its legacy of service by setting a goal of tripling the size of its global learning partnership, World Wise Schools, by the new millennium. This program connects Peace Corps volunteers with teachers and students right here in America to promote international and intercultural understanding.

And, finally, we must continue to come together as one America. As Walt Whitman once said, "We are a nation of nations." It is our diversity, alive in our democracy, that is the source of our creativity, our inventiveness, our ability to communicate all around the world. That is why last June I called upon all of our fellow Americans to begin a great national conversation on race and reconciliation to help to carry us into a new millennium.

Now, these are just a few of the ways we are planning to celebrate the new millennium and make it our own. Ultimately, every American must decide what gifts he or she will give to the future, but each has a responsibility for our common destiny. So let me urge every citizen, every family, every community to think of ways to celebrate and commemorate the millennium—from rebuilding and rejuvenating your local schools to restoring historic monuments to recording oral histories of family members.

Already, cities all across America are planning celebrations of their own. Over the next three years, the First Lady and I will work with governors, mayors, community leaders, to make the millennium a truly national celebration of gifts to the future. I invite you to share your ideas with us by visiting our new White House Millennium Program web site at www.whitehouse.gov. I decided that I have a future giving out 800 numbers and web sites. We only can hope to equal the number of hits that Governor Carlin has already said the Archives have.

This is a serious thing. We want the best ideas we can to commemorate, to energize and to drive the largest possible number of Americans to work together to make contributions to the future. And technology can help us do it. We want people of all ages and all walks of life to give us their ideas through the web site. Over the next three years the site will give us a chance also to tell the American people about what we're planning.

We will award the best local projects with the honorary title, Millennium Communities. And we'll post those stories on our web sites for other communities to read about and learn from. Other nations are keenly interested in what we're doing to mark the millennium and today, therefore, the Voice of America is broadcasting this event around the world. The Voice of America is also launching its own project, a series of special broadcasts about how we are celebrating the millennium.

We mark our own lives by milestones and anniversaries. We mark the time line of our nation with commemorations—the bicentennial of our independence, the 50th anniversary of D-Day, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific, next month the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's historic order to integrate Little Rock Central High School.

Each of our major turning points was an affirmation of our values, and as we recall them, we renew those values and gain new energy from them. With the millennium, we must now decide how to think about our commitment to the future. Thomas Paine said a long time ago, "We have it in our power to begin the world over again." We have always believed that in this country, and we must now take it upon ourselves to take stock as we approach this new millennium to commit ourselves to begin the world over again for our children, our children's children, for people who will live in a new century.

It is to the people of that new century that we must all offer our very best gifts. It is for them that we will celebrate the millennium.

Thank you very much.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1998

Welcome to the Millennium Evening at the White House. This visit with our three most recent Poets Laureate continues a series of gatherings with scholars, scientists, and creative individuals from many fields whose ideas will help us honor our past and imagine our future as we approach this milestone in human history.

Tonight we are privileged to have Robert Pinsky, Robert Hass, and Rita Dove present to us "A Celebration of Poetry in American Life." Their immeasurable talents and profound commitment to public poetry will help us all to perceive and take pride in the exciting ways that American poets have captured the truths of our existence.

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress with major support from Sun Microsystems and further support from the Howard Gilman Foundation join with the White House in co-sponsoring this evening's discussion. I extend to them a very special thanks for their generosity. Americans throughout the country are joining us via cybercast and satellite and we will hear from some of them after the poets' reading.

It is a pleasure to have you join us here in the "people's house" as we anticipate the 200th anniversary of the White House in the year 2000. It is my hope that this evening's program reminds each of us of our own love of poetry and renews our appreciation of the creative spirit.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

HONOR THE PAST — IMAGINE THE FUTURE

MILLENNIUM EVENING GUEST SPEAKER RITA DOVE

Rita Dove is Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and served as the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress between 1993-1995. She was the youngest person—and the first African-American—to receive that honor. While Poet Laureate, Ms. Dove brought a program of poetry and jazz to the Library's literary series, along with a reading by young Crow Indian poets and a two-day conference entitled "Oil on the Waters: The Black Diaspora," featuring panel discussions, readings and music. As she accepted the Laureate position she noted that, "If only the sun-drenched celebrities are being noticed and worshiped, then our children are going to have a tough time seeing value in the shadows, where the thinkers, probers and scientists are who are keeping society together."

Born in Akron, Ohio in 1952, Ms. Dove is the daughter of the first black research chemist who, in the 1950's, broke the race barrier in the tire industry. Ms. Dove was named a high school Presidential Scholar and was graduated summa cum laude from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio). She attended Universitat Tübingen (Germany) as a Fulbright fellow, and received her Master of Fine Arts at the University of Iowa. Her books include the poetry collections *The Yellow House on the Corner* (1980), *Museum* (1983), *Thomas and Beulah* (1986) for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, *Grace Notes* (1989), *Selected Poems* (1993), and *Mother Love* (1995). She has also written a volume of short stories, *Fifth Sunday* (1985), a novel, *Through the Ivory Gate* (1992), essays under the title *The Poet's World* (1995), and the play *The Darker Face of the Earth*, which received its world premiere in 1996 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and had a four week run at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. last fall. She expects to release another collection of poetry in the spring of 1999 and is currently working on a new play set in Washington, D.C. in the 1960's. Her new work, *Seven for Luck: A song cycle for soprano and orchestra*, written with composer John Williams, will be a Boston Pops PBS special this summer.

She says of poetry, "What makes (it) spiritually nourishing in a way only poetry can be is that it can stop a moment, and by capturing one moment makes us take a break and look around and feel really alive. We're so sped up most of the time, we're just going through the motions of being alive."

Among other honors, Ms. Dove's poetry has earned her recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Humanities Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Academy of American Poets, the American Academy of Achievement and many others. In 1996, she received the National Medal in the Humanities, the U.S. government's highest honor for writers and scholars in the humanities.

Ms. Dove lives in Charlottesville, Virginia with her husband—novelist, playwright and screenwriter Fred Viebahn—and their daughter, Aviva.

MILLENNIUM EVENING GUEST SPEAKER
ROBERT PINSKY

Robert Pinsky is the current Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress. He is focusing his work on the Favorite Poem Project which will create an audio/video archive of 1000 Americans—from every state with varying regional accents, ages, kinds of education, professions and ethnicities—reciting their favorite poems. He says, “The Favorite Poem Project offers a unique way to learn about poetry—through people who love specific poems. The archive will be a gift to the nation’s future.”

Born in 1940 in Long Branch, New Jersey, Robert Pinsky first had his imagination captured by the way words sounded, as in the rhythm of the train conductor’s cry, “Passengers going to Hoboken, change trains at Summit.” He developed a love of music as a saxophonist and his earliest writings were more often songs than poetry. He later earned a bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University, and then attended Stanford University where he held a Stegner fellowship. “If anyone should ask a thousand years from now, ‘Who were the Americans?’ one of the three or four cultural answers, along with our film and jazz, is a poetry that has deeply affected readers all over the world.”

His collections of poetry include *Sadness and Happiness* (1975); *An Explanation of America* (1980); *History of My Heart* (1984), awarded the William Carlos Williams Award of the Poetry Society of America; *The Want Bone* (1990); and *The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1966-1996*, nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and awarded the Ambassador Book Award in Poetry of the English Speaking Union and the Lenore Marshall Award. Mr. Pinsky’s translation *The Inferno of Dante* (1994) won the Los Angeles Times Book Award in poetry and the Academy of American Poets’ translation award; it was also a Book-of-the-Month-Club Editor’s Choice. His works in prose include *The Situation of Poetry* (1977) and *Poetry and the World* (1988), which was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. He has received many other literary awards and honors.

In addition to a long career in teaching, currently at Boston University, Robert Pinsky has served as Poetry Editor of *The New Republic* and is currently the poetry editor of the on-line magazine *Slate*. He has written that, “Poetry is itself a technology . . . like the digital computer, verse is a memory system; a means of storing information that can be called up with great speed, compactly.”

Mr. Pinsky lives in Newton, Massachusetts with his wife Ellen Pinsky, a clinical psychologist. They have three grown daughters, Nicole, Caroline and Elizabeth, and a grandson, Samuel Eli Pinsky-Dickson.

HONOR THE PAST — IMAGINE THE FUTURE

MILLENNIUM EVENING GUEST SPEAKER ROBERT HASS

Robert Hass is a professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley and served as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at the Library of Congress from 1995 to 1997. During his tenure as Poet Laureate, Professor Hass battled illiteracy by putting into action his belief that, "*Imagination makes communities.*" Of his passion for promoting literacy, he explains that, "When I got the (Laureate) job I did a lot of reading about literacy . . . One of the things that struck me was just how powerful a presence poetry has been in our culture when we were, as a people, teaching ourselves to read. At the beginning of the 19th century, less than 60 percent of American males could write their name, and that was far higher than in most of Europe. If you were black, you could get killed for reading. But we made literacy a civic religion from the idea that you couldn't have a democracy without it, and we taught a whole people to read. It's one of the great achievements of the American democratic experiment—and one of the indicators of the hunger for literacy, was a taste for poetry."

As Poet Laureate, Professor Hass also sponsored a week long celebration of American nature writing called "Watershed." His commitment to environmental issues led him to found the River of Words poetry contest which is run through the International Rivers Network.

Born in San Francisco, California in 1941, Professor Hass remembers as a child discovering a poem which, "made me understand what the word 'swoon' meant . . . It was the first physical sensation of the truthfulness of a thing that I had ever felt." He went on to earn his bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, Moraga, California, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University. While beginning his teaching career, he entered the Yale Younger Poets competition and won it for his first book, *Field Guide* (1973). He has also published *Praise* (1979) for which he won the William Carlos Williams Award of the Poetry Society of America, *Human Wishes* (1989) which won the Commonwealth Club of California Medal for Poetry, and *Sun Under Wood* (1996) for which he won the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry.

Professor Hass has also won acclaim for his work in translation and editing, including his work with poet Czeslaw Milosz which won two PEN/BABRA Translation Awards. He edited and translated *The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, and Issa* (1994) and wrote a collection of essays, *Twentieth Century Pleasures: Prose on Poetry* (1984) which won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Among his many honors, one which is especially meaningful is having been named Educator of the Year by the North American Association for Environmental Education in 1996 for his work on the River of Words project. Thousands of schoolchildren participate in the program, which helps students learn their watershed and their ecological address.

Professor Hass lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, poet Brenda Hillman. They have four children.

HONOR THE PAST—IMAGINE THE FUTURE

MILLENNIUM EVENINGS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Co-sponsored by:

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1965. Through funding support in the areas of preservation, education, research and public programs, NEH promotes knowledge of human history, thought and culture.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress mission is to make its resources available and useful to the Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations. The Library of Congress will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in the year 2000. The Favorite Poem Project is a bicentennial program of the Library's Center for the Book and is administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts.

With major support from:

SUN MICROSYSTEMS

Sun Microsystems is one of America's fastest-growing companies. It was founded in 1982 by four computer pioneers who shared a vision of open systems and network computing. This network approach has also been influential in developing the Internet. Their company is now a global Fortune 500 leader with operations in 150 countries.

and further support from

THE HOWARD GILMAN FOUNDATION

Established in 1981 by the late Howard Gilman, Chairman of the Board of Gilman Paper Company, The Howard Gilman Foundation seeks to nurture and to conserve a vibrant cultural and natural environment. Its grant-making program focuses on conservation, especially wildlife conservation, medicine and health, and the preservation and advancement of artistic and cultural endeavors.

MILLENNIUM EVENINGS AT THE WHITE HOUSE PUBLIC OUTREACH

The President and Mrs. Clinton have invited the public to join in the series of Millennium Evenings at the White House continuing tonight. The program by Poets Laureate Robert Pinsky, Robert Hass and Rita Dove continues the groundbreaking commitment to cybercast these events from the East Room of the White House. Thousands of Internet users will be able to log on to the White House or Sun Microsystems web sites to receive streaming video and audio at www.whitehouse.gov and www.sun.com.

Streaming is a way of serving video and audio information on the web so that browsers see it almost instantly. Internet streaming technology involves taking a video or audio data stream, compressing it and shooting the compressed stream across the network to client software that decompresses the stream and displays the results either on screen or through the computer's sound card and speaker system, or both. Other methods of seeing videos on the web involve the downloading of an entire video file, before it can be viewed, often requiring 10 minutes or more just to see a short 15 second clip. With streaming video, the information downloads in a "stream," allowing the viewer to see it almost instantly, so there is no delay in seeing the video.

Other broadcast techniques, which will include closed captioning, are also being employed to make this evening's lecture and discussion available to the public. The program is broadcast via satellite and, through Phi Theta Kappa and the National Endowment for the Humanities, is being downlinked at 190 institutions of higher education and state humanities councils in 44 states for watch gatherings and discussions. Four of The Library of Congress' Centers for the Book will carry the broadcast and the Library is hosting a site in Washington, D.C. The Department of Veterans Affairs is making the program available to its 173 Medical Centers around the country. C-SPAN will record and broadcast the program and pool press will cover the event as well.

Agencies' and organizations' e-mail listservs and web sites have carried announcements of this evening's broadcast. Some of them are: U.S. Department of Education, American Academy of Achievement, New England Foundation for the Arts, Poetry Society of America, Teachers and Writers Collaborative, Academy of American Poets, American Booksellers Association, University of Virginia, American Library Association, Modern Language Association and the International Reading Association.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN POETRY

The Favorite Poem Project

The Favorite Poem Project is a Library of Congress Bicentennial Program administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with major support from the National Endowment for the Arts. It is Robert Pinsky's primary project as Poet Laureate and will include Americans throughout the country.

The project aims to create, by the year 2000, an audio and video archive of many Americans—of diverse ages, regions, professions, backgrounds, ethnicities, educations—each saying aloud a poem the person loves. The archive will be a valuable educational and cultural resource, which will demonstrate the vigorous presence of poetry in American lives. The project emphasizes the relationship between a particular reader and a particular poem, expressed in the vocal, personal rendering of the poem.

For the purposes of the project, poems loved by Americans are "American" poems. A reader may choose Robert Browning or William Shakespeare—or even a poem written in another language (Navajo or Yiddish, Spanish or Chinese) accompanied by an English translation. Participants should write a sentence or two about why they chose the poem they did. The only rule is that the poem cannot be one that the participant has written, but one that the participant has read and admires. Submission forms are available at local libraries, Centers for the Book, and at other organizations throughout the country or on-line at www.nefa.org. If you cannot obtain a submission form, you may send a letter that includes the following information: your name, address, occupation, age, a bit of background information, the name of the poem you choose and the name of the poet. If you wish, you may include your phone number, fax number and/or e-mail address. Participants may send submissions to: Robert Pinsky, The Favorite Poem Project, Boston University, 236 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215.

River of Words National Environmental Poetry and Art Contest

The River of Words Contest, founded by Poet Laureate Robert Hass, is designed to increase awareness and understanding of the natural world and its connection to artistic expression and the human spirit among schoolchildren. Winners are announced in April to celebrate National Poetry Month and Earth Day. The deadline for next year's contest is February 15, 1999. For information, contact International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, send e-mail to row@irn.org, or visit the organization's web site at <http://www.irn.org>.

National Poetry Month

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month brings together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and nonprofit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops and other events.

CONSULTANTS IN POETRY AND POETS LAUREATE CONSULTANTS IN POETRY
with terms of service

Joseph Auslander	1937-41
Allen Tate	1943-44
Robert Penn Warren	1944-45
Louise Bogan	1945-46
Karl Shapiro	1946-47
Robert Lowell	1947-48
Leonie Adams	1948-49
Elizabeth Bishop	1949-50
Conrad Aiken	1950-52
William Carlos Williams	Appointed in 1952 but did not serve
Randall Jarell	1956-58
Robert Frost	1958-59
Richard Eberhart	1959-61
Louis Untermeyer	1961-63
Howard Nemerov	1963-64
Reed Whittemore	1964-65
Stephen Spender	1965-66
James Dickey	1966-68
William Jay Smith	1968-70
William Stafford	1970-71
Josephine Jacobsen	1971-73
Daniel Hoffman	1973-74
Stanley Kunitz	1974-76
Robert Hayden	1976-78
William Meredith	1978-80
Maxine Kumin	1981-82
Anthony Hecht	1982-84
Robert Fitzgerald	1984-85
Reed Whittemore	1984-85
Gwendolyn Brooks	1985-86
Robert Penn Warren	1986-87 First to be designated Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry
Richard Wilbur	1987-88
Howard Nemerov	1988-90
Mark Strand	1990-91
Joseph Brodsky	1991-92
Mona Van Duyn	1992-93
Rita Dove	1993-95
Robert Hass	1995-97
Robert Pinsky	1997-99