

ENRICHING LIVES, EXPANDING HORIZONS

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Annual Report 2007



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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A Message from the Director

2007 was an exciting year for The Newark Public Library, filled with many exceptional activities and important accomplishments. I'm proud to share a few highlights with you:

The Library had the distinction of being one of only 37 libraries nationwide and the only New Jersey library to host the Harry Potter Knight Bus on its tour celebrating the much-anticipated book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

The Library offered a selection of wonderful programs and exhibits for visitors last year. These included: *The Art of the Poster*, and *The Irish in Newark and New Jersey*. In celebration of Black History Month, the Library presented *The Creativity and Imagination of African American Women Writers in New Jersey* and for Hispanic Heritage Month, *Ecuador Expocultura 2007: New Jersey*. A remarkable partnership with Rutgers University focused attention on the fine prints collections that William J. Dane has developed and tended for many years. *The World in Prints: An International Survey of Graphic Arts, Contemporary and Historic* was exhibited at both the Main Library and at the Paul Robeson Galleries on the Rutgers–Newark campus.

Mr. Dane, Keeper of Prints and Works of Art on Paper, was among those honored at the Library's gala, *Booked for the Evening*. He was commended for his 60 years of distinguished service to our Library and to the field of art librarianship.

In early 2007, staff compiled a technology plan focusing on expanding public computing opportunities throughout the system and began implementation of this plan.

Our Board of Trustees adopted the Library's new strategic plan in the fall. This plan, which was the culmination of an extensive process, will guide our work for the next several years and takes as its theme Reading, Learning, Knowing, and Growing.

All of our many accomplishments were possible thanks to the dedicated staff, Board of Trustees of the Library, and the support of the City of Newark. I invite you to visit us soon!



Wilma J. Grey
Director, The Newark Public Library

A regular schedule of exhibitions, programs, and special events highlights the diversity both of the Library's collections and the communities that it serves.

Exhibitions and Programs

Exhibition Highlights

- A Salute to GRAD Associates: One Hundred Plus One; And a Selection of Great Books on Architectural History
- The Creativity and Imagination of African American Women Writers in New Jersey
- The Irish in Newark and New Jersey
- Art of the Poster
- The Art of Matching Picture to Text: An Exhibition to Celebrate the Art of Illustration
- Ecuador Expocultura 2007: New Jersey
- The World in Prints: An International Survey of Graphic Arts, Contemporary and Historic exhibited at two venues: the Main Library and the Paul Robeson Galleries at Rutgers—Newark

Program Highlights

- *The Media's Impact on Children and Society*—lecture by Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D.—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commemoration

- *Chicken Soup for the African American Woman's Soul*—discussion and book signing
- Exhibition opening reception for *The Irish in Newark and New Jersey*—Brad Small and Dr. Dermot Quinn, speakers
- *Gaucho Forever: A Different Brazilian Performance* presented by Brasil Tchê
- *Neighborhood*—musical presentation by Winceycy
- *Changes*—Shirley Stewart—discussion and book signing
- *Cool Calvin's No Bandanas for Me: Staying Gang Free* discussion and book signing by Ralph Burgess
- *The Art of Fine Art Collecting*—lecture and slide show with George R. N'Namdi
- Exhibition opening reception for *The Creativity and Imagination of African American Women Writers in New Jersey*—curated by Sibyl E. Moses
- *Some Things Better Left Unsaid*—T.D. Faison—discussion and book signing
- *Bloomfield Avenue: A Jewish-Catholic Jersey Girl's Spiritual Journey*—Linda Mercadante—lecture and book signing
- *Gospel Music Festival*—Dr. Lewis—program of classical and contemporary gospel music

- *Musical Matriarchs*—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra—performance and discussion with the musicians
- *Life Changes: Using the Power of Change to Transform Your Life* with Jennifer Lewis-Hall—discussion and book signing
- A Tribute to Dr. Ivan Van Sertima, author of *They Came Before Columbus: The African Presence in Ancient America*—Leonard Jeffries, Ph.D. and Clement A. Price, Ph.D., speakers
- *This Was New Jersey: As Seen by Photographer Harry C. Dorer*—John T. Cunningham—lecture and book signing
- Black Film Festival—Youth Cinema—*The Pied Piper; The Twelve Dancing Princesses; Float Like A Butterfly; Mattie, Johnny and Smooth White Stones; Beatrice's Goat; Thomas in Bloom; African-American Life; He's Got The Whole World In His Hands; Sounder 03*
- Opening reception for Hispanic Heritage month and the exhibit *Ecuador Expocultura New Jersey USA-2007*—Maria de Lourdes Vinueza, Consul for Ecuador in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, speaker
- *Fiesta Andina: Indigenous Music and Dance of the Andes*—performance



right:
Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D.
and Mary Puryear,
Prudential Foundation

opposite page, left: African dance at Dr. Ivan Van Sertima tribute.
opposite page, right: Newark Council President Mildred Crump (center)
and jazz musician Sherry Winston (far right), join writers Patricia Watler Johnson,
Sonya Simpson, and Nancy Gilliam at the *Chicken Soup for the African American
Woman's Soul* program.

- *Cuestión de Vida o Muerte (A Matter of Life and Death)*—theater presentation by Teatro Tocando Puertas
- *An Evening of Prose, Poetry, and Music*—Ecuadorian writers and poets and a classical guitar recital
- *Instruments, Music, and Dance—Three Aspects of the Musical Tradition of Ecuador*—exhibits and performances
- *La Mitad del Mundo-Proyecto Quitsato y Música Académica Ecuatoriana*—documentary and concert
- *Branch Brook Park*—Kathleen P. Galop and Catharine Longendyck—lecture and book signing
- *Investing Pays Off: Managing Credit and Budgeting/Jobs and Careers/Investing & Financial Planning*—Merrill Lynch Financial Literacy Program—discussion

- *Sounds of Music: The Dolores Collins Benjamin Story*—Barbara J. Kukla—lecture and book signing
- *Restoring The Male Image: A Look From The Inside Out*—Alex O. Ellis—lecture and book signing
- *Newark: A History of Race, Rights, and Riots in America*—Kevin Mumford—lecture and book signing commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Newark Riots
- *Yarina: Remembrances of Ecuador*—A Theatreworks USA presentation
- *A Salute to Our Heroes*—presentation of Congressional Gold Medals by U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg to four of the original Tuskegee Airmen: Shade Lee, Dr. William Neal Brown, Malcolm Nettingham, and Odell McLeod
- *That Mean Old Yesterday*—Stacey Patton—lecture and book signing
- *Marvelous World Book I: The Marvelous Effect*—Troy Cle—discussion and book signing

FRANCES E.W. HARPER LITERARY SOCIETY

Activities of this group during the year included a showing of the film *Ruby Bridges* followed by a discussion on the themes Remembering “Separate but Equal” and Brown v. Board of Education, a staged reading of *The Amen Corner* by James Baldwin, and an open-mike poetry program in memory of Halim Suliman with guest poet Cuz’s.

Books discussed at the monthly meetings included: *47* by Walter Mosley, *Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagiza, *Fledgling* by Octavia E. Butler, *Not Easily Broken: A Novel* by T. D. Jakes, *A Hand To Guide Me* by Denzel Washington with Daniel Paisner, and *Born to Win: The Authorized Biography of Althea Gibson* by Frances Clayton Gray.



XPANDING HORIZONS

Youth Services

Library staff again provided many exciting, educational, and entertaining programs for children and teens.

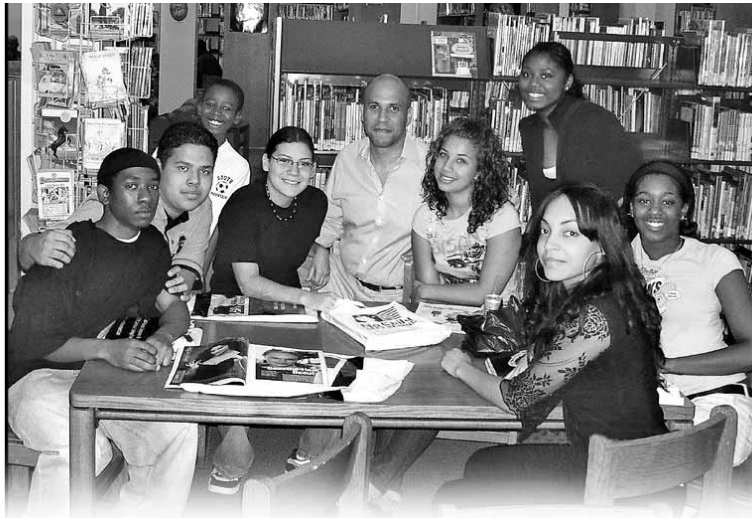
During its 36th year at the Newark Public Library, the Hooray for Children series continued to offer programs for the entire family, including *Storyjourney*, *Paws, Claws, Scales and Magical Tales*, *Discovering Columbus*, and *Happy Holidays Around the World*.

In coordination with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, several professional New Jersey acting companies gave live performances for Family Week at the Theatre, including *New Kid* and *Peacemaker* (both presented by the George Street Playhouse), *Genies, Lamps and Dreams: Tales of the Arabian Nights* (A Young Audiences of New Jersey production), and *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* (performed by Youth Stages).

Family Programs @ the Branches, funded by the Newark Public Schools, enhance the knowledge gained during regular school classes. Among the outstanding presentations were *African and African-American Folktales*, Veona Thomas's *Tell Me A Story*, *Dr. Electro's Science Party*, and *The Lizard Guys*.

Club Success completed its 14th year. This after-school, teacher-supervised homework program is funded by the Newark Public Schools.

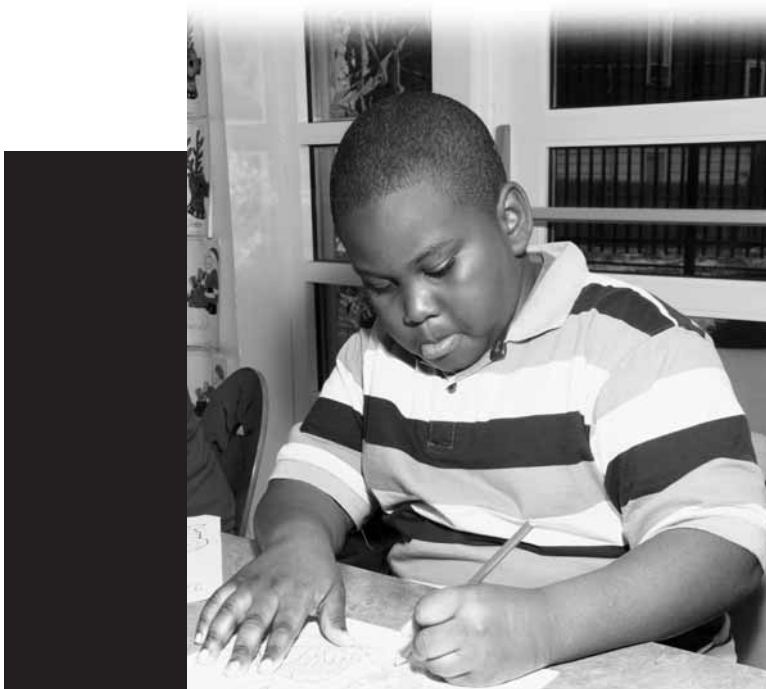
The Prudential Foundation again sponsored the Summer Reading Challenge. The theme for children was "Get a Clue @ Your Library" and the theme for teens was "You Never Know," both of which encouraged readers to explore the unknown, either through mystery novels or through books on the mysteries of the earth. For the first time, the Library added a teen component to the Summer Reading Challenge. It was enhanced by the presentation of the Teen Mystery Movie Series that featured six mystery-themed films.



As part of the New Jersey Devils Newark Arena Model Tour at the Newark Public Library, Newark students were invited to write their own hockey stories using the title "Newark, Hockey and Me."

For the ever-popular annual Design-A-Bookmark contest during National Children's Book Week, readers responded to the theme "Rise Up Reading" with many beautiful bookmarks.

El Día de los Niños—El Día de los Libros (Children's Day—Book Day) offered arts and crafts, a parents' reading workshop, and a live performance by children's



Peruvian folklore group Taky Llaqta. It was a celebration of children, families, and reading. Hundreds of fans, some dressed in character, greeted the purple triple-decker Harry Potter Knight Bus as it arrived at Main Library, the only New Jersey stop on a cross-country promotional tour.

Kids Unscripted—A Summer Theatre Workshop, held at the Van Buren and North End Branches, introduced aspiring actors and actresses to the world of theatre. The six-week program was funded by a generous donation from Carol Greene Duncan.

Wally Amos visited the Library for the Read It LOUD with Uncle Wally's read-a-thon, a program to encourage reading aloud to children of all ages.

The Springfield Branch Library again offered its well-received program for college-bound students. The course, taught by volunteer Lyndon Brown, consists of SAT preparation classes, financial aid workshops, college essay writing, and scholarship searches. The Library also sponsored a college fair with recruiters from many colleges and universities. The Charles E. Thenen Foundation provided funding for both the classes and the fair.

Newark Public Library cardholders now have access to Homework Help NJ, an online tutoring service for students in grades 4-12. Tutors are available every day from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Homework Help NJ is supported by the New Jersey State Library through a generous grant from PSE&G.

Learning About Myself and My World: Kindergarten and Pre-K Extended Classroom Experiences are co-operative programs of the Newark Public Schools and the Newark Public Library. The half-day, Newark Public Schools-funded learning experience introduces these students to the Library. It features a story time, video, and interactive activities centered on themes that connect with the curriculum, and registration for their first library cards.

In addition to the special programming, young readers enjoyed computer activities, story hours, spelling bees, arts & crafts, table games, movies, contests, and holiday programs.

opposite page, top: Mayor Cory Booker and teens at the Springfield Branch College Fair.
below: Harry Potter Knight Bus.



EXPANDING HORIZONS

Collections and Services

Librarians expanded the computer class curriculum with two new choices: Blogging and Getting Organized with the Internet. Introductory and intermediate classes continue to be offered in both English and Spanish.

In addition to fielding questions received by phone, fax, email, and in person, reference librarians continue to staff Q&ANJ, an online chat reference service for questions on all subjects, and the Government Information Online Project, an online chat service for questions relating to local, state, federal, and international government.

New databases for 2007 were *Chilton Library* (provides car repair, maintenance, and service information for many vehicles, including diagrams and step-by-step guidance), *Gale Legal Forms*, *Heritage Quest Online*, a powerful genealogy search tool, and *Literature Resource Center* which features analyses of literary works.

Participants representing 30 countries attended the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes offered at the Main Library and three branches. Classes at both the beginner and intermediate levels expanded from eight-week terms in previous years to three ten-week terms. The Newark Public Library also offered American Sign Language classes.

The Library now offers a greatly expanded graphic novels collection in a new location on the third floor of the Main Library. The collection features superheroes, manga, and compilations of comic books. Teens appreciate the newly enlarged young adult collection at the Main Library with its many added popular fiction, new nonfiction, and classics titles.

The Library partnered with WBGO and other agencies to participate in the national oral history project StoryCorps Griot, sponsored by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Outreach

Library staff also continue their outreach services by visiting schools, senior centers, clubs, historical societies, art venues, and churches, as well as hosting various community groups to discuss the availability of the Library's services and materials.

The New Jersey Library Association's Reference Section toured the Library's collections.

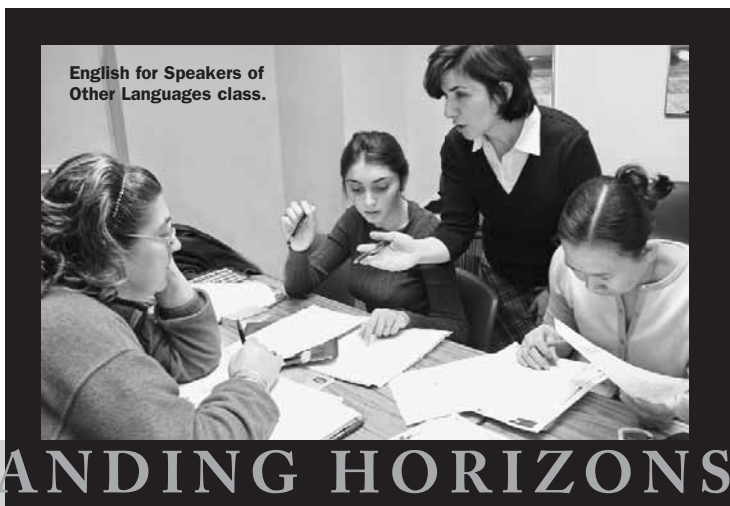
New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center staff gave a presentation on their activities to Adelante, the PSE&G Hispanic employee organization. High school students from ASPIRA, Inc. participated in the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center's *Organizing Our Community's Records*, an annual project that introduces Latino teens to local history archives. The eight-week program, which was funded by the Verizon Foundation and supported by the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research, and Development, also included computer and job-related classes.

Special Collections staff gave a lecture entitled "Graphic Arts Processes and the Fine Print Collection of the Newark Public Library" at Montclair State University.

Staff of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center gave talks to classes at Rutgers and Seton Hall. The Library lent photographs from the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center to American History High School, the new Jewish Museum of New Jersey, and Berkeley College, all in Newark. They provided reproductions of historic sports photographs for an installation at the new Prudential Center arena.

Awards and Accomplishments

- Wilma J. Grey received the Partners Award for Education/Business from Crest CDC and the International Youth Organization.
- Heidi Cramer was elected president-elect of the New Jersey Library Association.
- The New Jersey Library Association honored the Newark Public Schools with its Library Champion award for its longtime support of the Newark Public Library.
- The New Jersey Library Association presented the Frances E.W. Harper Society with its Library Service Award for promoting reading and library services. Chaired by Dorothea M. Moore, the 20-year-old book discussion group focuses on works of the Black Diaspora.
- The New Jersey Library Association presented the Library with its Public Relations Award for Websites.
- Patricia Bender, President of the Friends of the Newark Public Library, received the Provost's Award for Community Service from the Newark Campus of Rutgers University.
- Edward Small was honored by the Unified Vailsburg Service Organization with the Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Award for public service.
- Paul Pattwell was the keynote speaker at the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants and was selected as the President of the Urban Libraries Section of the New Jersey Library Association.
- Shileen Shaw and Aurelia Rodriguez received N.J. State Library IMLS scholarships to attend Thomas Edison College.
- Laura Saura spoke on a panel at the annual Depository Library Conference in Washington, DC and was appointed chairperson of the Documents Association of New Jersey's Federal Documents Interest Group.
- Ingrid Betancourt received a resolution from the City of Newark's Municipal Council for "many years of commitment and dedication in coordinating the Library's Hispanic Heritage Celebration and promoting Latino/Hispanic Culture in the City of Newark."
- Ingrid Betancourt received the Board of Trustees Award at the 40th Anniversary Gala of FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community Development Inc.
- Ina Rimpau and Ingrid Betancourt presented two programs on popular Latino celebrations and traditions at the Annual Conference of the New Jersey Association of School Librarians.
- Leslie Kahn and Paul Pattwell were appointed to the New Jersey State Librarian's Blue Ribbon Panel Task Force.
- Jared Ash was elected secretary of the New York Chapter of the American Printing History Association.
- Joseph Casale was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International.
- Bruce Ford edited the book *Gradual Psalms with Alleluia Verses and Tracts*.
- Leslie Kahn wrote two articles for the New Jersey Library Association's Reference Section newsletter.



EXPANDING HORIZONS

Fundraising Special Events

MARIA DECASTRO BLAKE AWARDS

The New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center honored four people for their service in improving the lives of the state’s Hispanics at the Maria DeCastro Blake Awards Dinner at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark on May 4. Honorees were Raúl Dávila, actor and community activist (awarded posthumously); Maria “Charo” Juega, immigrant rights advocate; and Eliu Rivera, executive director, Puerto Rican Association for Community Organization (PACO). The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Hilda Hidalgo, Professor Emerita in Public Administration, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Newark Campus.

BOOK CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The *Book Classic* Golf Tournament, held at the Plainfield Country Club in Edison on July 24, raised over \$10,000 in support of the 2007 Annual Fund Campaign.

BOOKED FOR THE EVENING

Robert and Patricia Curvin accept the Community Service award from Steve Aduabato, Jr.



The annual gala dinner, *Booked for the Evening*, was a great success, raising more than \$200,000 for the Annual Fund Campaign. This fundraiser was held on November 8 at Nanina’s in the Park. Honorees were Newark residents Dr. Robert and Patricia Curvin for Community Service; William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Prints and Works of Art on Paper, for Individual Support; and Cogswell Realty Group, LLC for Corporate Support. Joseph Yeadon, a longtime member of the Library’s Board of Trustees, received the President’s Award. Jeffrey Vanderbeek, Chairman and Managing Partner of the New Jersey Devils, and Michael Gilfillan, Vice Chairman and Partner of the New Jersey Devils, were the dinner co-chairs. Event committee co-chairs were Marion C. O’Neill, PSE&G, and Steve Aduabato, Jr., Ph.D., Thirteen/WNET (PBS).

THE FRIENDS OF THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Newark Public Library hosted the first “Greater Newark Friends Gathering.” The special guest speaker was Karen Avenick, Trustee and Friends Coordinator for the New Jersey Library Association and former Assistant Director of the Camden County Library.

The 16th Annual Book Sale raised more than \$6,000. Books that remained unsold after the sale were offered to local organizations, such as charter schools, churches, and the Northern State Prison.

Founding members of the Friends and longtime Newark Public Library staff members were interviewed for the “Stories from the Stacks” oral history project.

The Friends sponsored a showing of the film *A Ripple in the Water: Healing Through Art*. Filmmakers Eileen M. Foti and Patricia Piroh led a discussion.

Notable Grants

In 2007, the Newark Public Library's collections, programs, and services continued to benefit from generous grants from state and local agencies, corporations, and foundations.

■ Carole Greene Duncan—Kids Unscripted, theatre program—\$7,000

■ Lucius & Eva Eastman Fund—NJHRIC's Puerto Rican Community Archives—\$5,000

■ Essex County Local Arts Program Grant—Hispanic Heritage Celebration—programs—\$4,879

■ HSBC Foundation—NJHRIC's Organizing Our Community's Records summer youth program—\$5,000

■ Independence Community Foundation—English for Speakers of Other Languages classes—\$25,000

■ International Fine Print Dealers Association—The World in Prints exhibition—\$2,000

■ Estate of Florence Miller—Materials for the blind and visually impaired—\$5,000

■ New Jersey Council for the Humanities—The Irish in Newark and New Jersey exhibition—\$10,000

■ New Jersey Historical Commission—General operating support—\$80,000

■ New Jersey State Library—Per capita state aid—support—\$352,198

■ New Jersey State Library—English for Speakers of Other Languages Classes—\$20,000

■ Newark Public Schools—Saturday Branch Partnership—\$101,860

■ Newark Public Schools—K and Pre-K Extended Classroom Experiences—\$26,000

■ Newark Public Schools—Club Success after-school academic assistance—\$115,000

■ PNC Bank—Black History Month exhibition and programs—\$10,000

■ Prudential Foundation—Summer Reading Challenge—\$15,000

■ H.R.H. Oba Adetunji Akinloye Sateru II—Collection development for the James Brown African American Room—\$1,000

■ The Schnur Family Fund—Purchase of original works of graphic art or unique artists' books—\$6,500

■ Charles E. Thenen Foundation—SAT preparation program for high school students at Springfield Branch Library—\$3,000

■ Universal Service Fund—E-rate reimbursement for technology improvements—\$385,815

■ Verizon Foundation—NJHRIC's Organizing Our Community's Records summer youth program—\$20,000

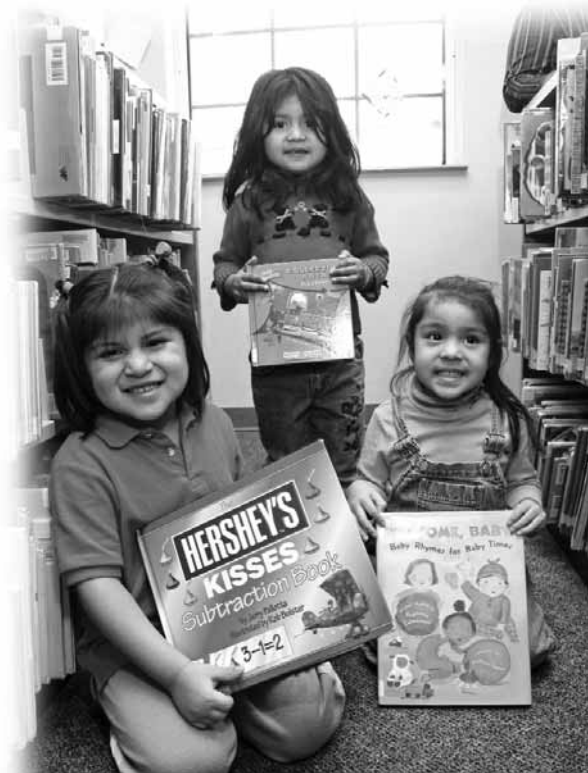


EXPANDING HORIZONS

Gifts of Materials

Patrons' donations of books, papers, posters, artwork, photographs, and other items expand the Library's collections and add a unique dimension to its holdings.

- Pro Libra—Newark Board of Education scrapbooks and minutes from 1942 to the mid-1970s
- Jim Prez—fifteen artist's books
- William Dane—print by Benjamin Edwards, winner of the 2006 RISD/Target Emerging Artist Award; two signed and numbered posters; four books from San Juan; and three artist's books by Louise Levergneux
- Brodsky Center for Innovative Print and Paper, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick—several prints
- James Edward Jones—six drawings
- Dr. Burton Pollin—group of posters relating to Edgar Allan Poe
- Philadelphia Print Collaborative—portfolio of 100 original prints
- Richard T. Koles—more than 300 photographs of Passaic County and notes by the late Jean-Rae Turner
- Timothy Crist, Ph.D.—book on the historic photographer P.H. Emerson
- Ricardo Andrade—collection of Ecuadorian books from the Director of Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana
- Donald Farkas—eighteen color photographs from this one-time surveyor of the City of Newark
- Burt Wasserman—biographical materials and two digital prints from this Rowan College artist
- Essex County Psychiatric Hospital—annual reports from the former facility
- Ben Jones—new autobiography by this Jersey City artist
- Wendy Strow—approximately 70 shopping bags from California, Hawaii, and New Orleans



Donors

The Newark Public Library wishes to extend sincere gratitude to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations listed here for their generous support throughout 2007. These donors have made contributions toward one or more of the following areas: the Annual Fund Campaign, the Friends of The Newark Public Library, the Book Classic Golf Tournament, the Booked for the Evening Gala, the Hispanic Research and Information Center, and the Hellenic Heritage Fund. Thanks to the generosity of these thoughtful benefactors the Library is able to continue enriching lives and expanding horizons. We apologize in advance for any misspellings or omissions and ask that you contact the Development Office at 973-424-1832 to report any errors.

Estate Gifts to Endowment Fund

Estate of Florence Miller
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Estate of Jean-Rae Turner

Over \$30,000

Mr. William J. Dane
Prudential

\$20,000 – \$29,999

Independence Community Foundation
MCJ Foundation
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\$10,000 – \$19,999

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**American Sign Language
Classes**
attendance 297

**English for Speakers of
Other Languages Classes**
attendance 707

**Programs (Library and Community
Organization sponsored)**
programs/attendance 2,313/54,170

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Support and Revenues

City of Newark Budget Appropriation	\$ 14,910,241
State Library Aid	352,198
Fundraising	296,302
Grants	824,394
Designated Fund Income	174,000
Investment Income	63,706
Fines and Fees	39,474
Other	318,513
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$ 16,979,368

Expenditures

Salaries and Wages	\$ 8,269,182
Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	184,798
General and Administrative	1,380,190
Services by Contract or Agreement	1,829,837
Books and Library Materials	1,128,763
Building Improvements and Equipment	575,591
Capital Leases	437,007
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 16,805,368

below, from left: Irish in Newark and New Jersey Exhibition.
Master Band performs at the opening reception for Hispanic Heritage Month celebrating Ecuador Expocultura 2007: New Jersey.
Joan Benjamin and Daniel Yerovi, Van Buren Branch staff.



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