The Friends of the Newark Public Library dedicated much of its focus in 2006 to the memory of one of its founding members – Charles Cummings. As part of this effort, the Friends committed proceeds from its annual book sale and other efforts to the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at the Library and to the Robert Treat Endowment, a fund established by Charles Cummings.

The Friends will continue to operate under a membership program that runs from April to April to coincide with the annual book sale. Dues are $25 Friend, $10 City Friend, live or work in Newark, and $5 senior/student. Currently there are 80 members of the Friends.

The Friends will dedicate proceeds from the 2007 book sale and other efforts to the Oral History Project. The final product will be a written work, along with a video highlighting some of the stories of key players within the library and should be completed in 2008.

The sale in 2007 is already scheduled for April 21, 24, 26, 28, again on two consecutive Saturdays.

John T. Cunningham

Prolific author and New Jersey historian John T. Cunningham presented the 2006 John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecture on October 18 in Centennial Hall. The topic of his presentation was “Charles F. Cummings and John Cotton Dana: Proud to be Newarkers.” Cunningham is well-known for his knowledge of New Jersey history, politics and culture. His first book, *This is New Jersey*, is in its fifth revision. A long-standing member of the Friends, Cunningham donated his honorarium back to the library to support the New Jersey Information Center.

Volunteer Honor

The December 2006 Annual Friends meeting honored volunteer Kay Geter with the Charles F. Cummings Friends Volunteer of the Year award. Kay has been a dedicated member of the Friends and a long-time volunteer at the Annual Book Sale. The Friends also honored the Moeller family for their repeated donations of books to support the library sale.

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Looking Forward

I prefer to be contacted by: □ Mail □ E-mail
Membership will be effective for one year (April 1-March 31)
Donation (check one): □ $25 Friend □ $10 Live or Work in the City □ $5 Senior/Student/Limited income

I wish to charge my membership to my □ VISA □ MasterCard
Card # ____________________________
Exp. Date ____________________________
Signature ____________________________

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Library Summit Attended by Friends Members

Friends Board members Patricia Bender, Rebecca Doggett, and Carol Jenkins-Cooper attended a community summit in October that kicked off preparations to draft a strategic plan for the library. Mayor Cory Booker and a wide variety of public officials and community leaders attended the event entitled “A Public Library for the 21st Century”.

Newark Literacy Campaign Support

In 2006, the Friends supported the Newark Literacy Campaign in a number of ways, including providing tutors and students free book certificates from the Annual Book Sale. The Friends also provided additional support for their spelling bee journal.

Oral History Project

In collaboration with The Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, an interdisciplinary academic program for the study of ethnicity, race, and culture in modern life located on the Rutgers, Newark campus, the Friends will began work in 2006 on an oral history of the Library and the Friends organization. The project will collect the histories from key Newark Public Library staff members, such as Bill Dane, founding members of the Friends, patrons, and supporters. The project will include interviews with key stakeholders in the library such as library staff, elected officials, users of the Library, and founders of the Friends organization.

Library Card Sign-up Hosted by the Friends

As part of Library Card Sign-Up-Month, the Friends hosted off-site registrations for their library cards at the Rutgers-Newark campus. Students that signed up for either or both their Newark Public Library card or their campus library card, were entered into a raffle for a Barnes and Noble gift certificate and other materials from the library. Two students, who are Newark residents, won the raffle. The event registered 135 students with new library cards.

Friends 2005 and 2006 Grants Used to Help Library Special Collections

The Friends were thanked by Bill Dane, Supervising Librarian for Special Collections and Keeper of the Prints, for their 2005 contribution of $11,000 to support Special Collections. Funding was utilized to refurbish display cases and purchase new ones, and support the Gertrude Fine Prints Endowment Fund. In a letter to the Friends, Mr. Dane wrote, “users and enthusiasts for the Newark Public Library in the 21st century will have notable works of graphic arts added to the collection to enrich visual experience for decades to come.”

We Love the Library Staff

The Friends acknowledged the hard-working library staff with valentines and candy for each department and each branch of the library on St. Valentine’s Day. President of the Friends Patricia Bender said, “it is our way of thanking all the staff of the Newark Public Library for what they do to serve the public and assist the Friends with our many activities during the year.”

Thank You to Barnes & Noble in Clifton, New Jersey for their generous donation of new books and to Friends members...past, present and future.

Friends of the Newark Public Library Board of Trustees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Bender</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Wilma J. Grey</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Librarian</td>
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<td>Carolyn Jairullo</td>
<td>Curator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Jenkins-Cooper</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
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Friends Board members Patricia Bender, Rebecca Doggett, and Carol Jenkins-Cooper.

Friends of the Newark Public Library

5 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07101-0630

Name ____________________________________________ Yes, I want to volunteer. I would prefer to work on: ☐ Advocacy   ☐ Book sale
☐ Special Events   ☐ Membership

Address ____________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ________ Zip ________
Telephone (Home) ___________________________ (Work) ___________________________
E-mail ____________________________________________