

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102
P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Newark Public Library announces June programs

Highlighting the June schedule of programs for the Newark Public Library, 5 Washington Street, are a panel discussion on its major exhibition on Newark Airport's 80th birthday, the kickoff rally for the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, and a concert in celebration of Black Music Month. All of the library's June events are free and open to the public. For more information, call the number listed with the program description, or visit www.npl.org for adult programs and kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html for children's programs.

A festive rally on Thursday, June 26 will launch the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge. The event will begin at 10:30am in Centennial Hall of the main library. It features entertainment, Beth and Scott Bierko performing "Bugs and Books"; an appearance by Corky, the library's mascot; refreshments; and a special gift for the children.

The *Challenge*—this year's theme is *Catch the Reading Bug*—encourages children to put the enjoyment of reading in their summer fun activities. The program runs from June 23 through August 2. It rewards Newark's children, who read and report on at least five books, with a step-system of prizes. For more information, stop by any of the library's Children's Rooms system wide, or visit kidsplace.npl.org.

On view on the second- and third-floor galleries of the main library through June 14 is a landmark exhibition, curated by the library's James Lewis, entitled ***EWR Turns 80: A History of Newark Liberty International Airport***. It charts the history of Newark's airport and the development of commercial aviation in New Jersey. Richard Koles, a professional photographer formerly with the *Daily Journal* in Elizabeth, has also lent his expertise in the development of the show. The exhibition was made possible by a grant from the Port Authority of NY and NJ.

Complementing the exhibit will be a panel discussion on Tuesday, June 3 that will explore the history of the airport through the images and artifacts featured in the show. It features photographer and historian Richard Koles; David Morris, former head of operations at Newark Liberty International Airport; and librarian James Lewis, the show's curator. The event, which is sponsored by the Newark History Society and the library, begins at 6pm in Centennial Hall. A gallery tour follows the talk. For more information on the program or the exhibit call James Lewis at 973-733-7756. To *RSVP* for the panel discussion, email rsvp@npl.org or call 973-733-7793 by May 29.

The Omega Jazz Ensemble, from Newark's Arts High School, will be performing at the library on June 4 to celebrate Black Music Month. The concert starts at 6pm and will be held in Centennial Hall. A discussion of the history and nature of jazz follows with band members and director Oscar

Petty Jr. Mr. Petty has recorded both as a classical oboist with the Billings Montana Symphony, playing selections from Franz Joseph Haydn, and as a jazz performer. The Arts High School Omega Jazz Ensemble has performed more than 500 shows at various venues and festivals. For more information about this event or to make a reservation, please call 973-733-7793 or email rsvp@npl.org by May 29.

There will be a celebration of gospel music when Dr. Albert Lewis and The Voices of Victory present a special program on Wednesday the 25th, beginning 6pm in Centennial Hall. To RSVP call 973-733-7793 or email rsvp@npl.org.

The library will hold a reading and book signing by Gilda Rogers, author of *Arrested Development: The State of black Achievement and Education in Hip-Hop America*, on Thursday the 12th, beginning 6pm in the main library's fourth-floor Auditorium. To RSVP call 973-733-7793 or email rsvp@npl.org.

Geronimo Red and Tanisha Purnell will host poets and artists who will read original poems at "Hip Hop Next Presents: The Truth Through Spoken Word Showcase." The event will be held from Noon to 3pm in Centennial Hall on Saturday the 21st. To RSVP call 973-733-7793 or email rsvp@npl.org.

Following is the June list of "Programs @ the Branches," an initiative funded by the Newark Public Schools.

Wednesday, June 11, 4pm, First Avenue Branch Library, 282 First Avenue, 973-733-8091. "Magic that BUGS Me." Take a hysterical journey into the world of creepy crawlies, flying thing-a-mabobs and miniature ant armies in an attempt to CATCH the READING BUG! Join us for magic and fun with the talented magician Mark Wurst. During his performance, he will teach the children some tricks of their own.

Wednesday, June 11, 4pm, Branch Brook Branch Library, 235 Clifton Avenue, 973-733-6388. "The Lizard Guys." Join The Lizard Guys for an exciting glimpse into the fabulous world of exotic animals, such as lizards, turtles, frogs, and a huge guest for the finale. Children will learn many different facts about these animals, such as where they live and what they eat.

Wednesday, June 11, 4pm, Clinton Branch Library, 739 Bergen Street, 973-733-7754. Storybook Puppet Theatre presents Mikaylee and the Huge, Gigantic, Enormous Boulder. The King has had it with his entire people thinking only of themselves, but what can he do? His clever daughter devises a plan that involves a bag of gold, a deep hole, and one huge, gigantic, enormous boulder in the middle of the road. Join us on this magical journey to find out how the king solves his problem.

Wednesday, June 11, 4pm, Roseville Branch Library, 99 Fifth Street, 973-733-7770. "Moogie's Balloon Theatre." Join Moogie as she tells her version of traditional tales. You will be able to act out the story using costumes Moogie creates out of balloons.

Wednesday, June 11, 4pm, Weequahic Branch Library, 355 Osborne Terrace, 973-733-7752. "Fun on a String Puppets and Marionettes." Join Miss Penny as she uses puppets and marionettes to make you laugh. There will be many surprises and lots of fun as we meet some of her friends, including Twinkles, and Octavius the Octopus.

Friday, June 13, 3:30pm, Springfield Branch Library, 50 Hayes Street, 973-733-7736. “Beth and Scott Bierko present Bugs and Books.” Join Beth and Scott as they present songs about loveable creepy crawlers.

Friday, June 13, 3:30pm, Vailsburg Branch Library, 75 Alexander Street, 973-733-7755. “Magic that BUGS Me.” Take a hysterical journey into the world of creepy crawlies, flying thing-a-ma-bobs and miniature ant armies in an attempt to CATCH the READING BUG! Join us for magic and fun with the talented magician Mark Wurst. During his performance, he will teach the children some tricks of their own.

Wednesday, June 18, 4pm, Van Buren Branch Library, 140 Van Buren Street, 973-733-7750. “Beth and Scott Bierko present Bugs and Books.” Join Beth and Scott as they present songs about loveable creepy crawlers.

Wednesday, June 18, 4pm, Madison Branch Library, 790 Clinton Avenue, 973-733-8090. Storybook Puppet Theatre presents Mikaylee and the Huge, Gigantic, Enormous Boulder. The King has had it with his entire people thinking only of themselves, but what can he do? His clever daughter devises a plan that involves a bag of gold, a deep hole, and one huge, gigantic, enormous boulder in the middle of the road. Join us on this magical journey to find out how the king solves his problem.

Wednesday, June 18, 4pm, North End Branch Library, 722 Summer Avenue, 973-733-7683. “The Lizard Guys.” Join The Lizard Guys for an exciting glimpse into the fabulous world of exotic animals, such as lizards, turtles, frogs, and a huge guest for the finale. You will learn many different facts about these animals, such as where they live and what they eat.

On Wednesday the 4th, at 6:30pm, in the main library’s James Brown African-American Room, the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society will celebrate the Black Diaspora with a discussion of Stanley Meisler’s *Kofi Annan: A Man of Peace in a World of War*. For more information on the Society and its programs call 973-733-5411.

On Saturday the 7th, at 10:30am, in the main library’s Centennial Hall, the Hooray for Children program series, which stages live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians and theater groups, will present Lauren Hooker in “The Fire Children,” a tale of the earth, celebrating the culture, language and traditions of the Akan people of Ghana through song and dance with life-sized Akuaba dolls. For information on this event call 973-733-7797, or visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.

Free computer classes—in English and Spanish—are being held in the Technology Training Center, which is located on the third floor of the main library. Class size is limited to ten participants. Some classes are designed for first-time computer users (Mouse Clinic, Typing), while others are for those with more computer literacy (Word Processing, Email, Blogging, Internet, Creating a Résumé). For more information on the calendar of classes for the month, please call 973-733-3603, or visit www.npl.org/Pages/Computers/.

The library is offering American Sign Language (ASL) Classes for beginners—Levels I & II—on Saturdays, through June 7. The classes will be held from 10:30am to Noon in the main library’s James Brown African-American Room. For more information, please call 973-733-5411, or email lgreggs@npl.org or mgeorge@npl.org, or visit www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/Programs/ASL_Sp08.html.

The library is holding Beginner and Intermediate Level ESOL Classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages) on Wednesdays and Saturdays (also Tuesdays and Fridays at the Van Buren Branch Library), through June 28, at the main library and four branch libraries: Branch Brook, First Avenue, North End, and Van Buren. Children 7 years and older may visit the Children's Room while their parents attend these ESOL classes. For more information call 973-733-5412, 973-733-5411, or 973-733-7772, or visit www.npl.org/Pages/ProgramsExhibits/Programs/ESOL_Sp08.html.

The Branch Brook Branch Library, 235 Clifton Avenue, 973-733-6388, will hold several children's programs during the month. A storytime about dads will take place at 10:30am on Thursday the 5th, Monday the 9th, Tuesday the 10th and Thursday the 12th. Celebrate Father's Day by making a special card on Wednesday the 11th at 4pm. Learn to stay safe with games and puzzles on Monday the 16th and Tuesday the 17th, both starting at 3pm, and on Wednesday the 18th at 3:30pm.

The Main Library Children's Room, 973-733-7797, invites children to a Father's Day arts and crafts at which they will create a photo card and write a poem on Thursday the 12th at 3:30pm. On Friday the 13th, from 11am to 1pm, celebrate Father's Day with a dance workshop in the fourth-floor Auditorium that includes dances led by Stories in Motion, crafts and refreshments; the event is for dads, moms and children of all ages.

Learn about Brazilian gaucho culture at the opening reception for the 4th International Gaucho Convention at the Van Buren Branch Library, 140 Van Buren Street, on Friday the 20th at 3:30pm. The event features dance, music, poetry, and crafts. On Thursday the 19th at 4pm children will make giant ants and help turn the Children's Room into an ant farm in preparation for the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge (for which the theme is *Catch the Reading Bug*). There will be a rare opportunity to hear *fado*, the soul music of Portugal, performed at the Van Buren branch by a renowned local Ironbound *fadista*, Fatima Santos, accompanied by her two-man classical and Portuguese guitar ensemble. This special event will be held on Saturday the 14th at 11am. For more information about these programs, call the branch at 973-733-7750.

The Weequahic Branch Library, 355 Osborne Terrace, 973-733-7751, will host a luncheon for seniors from surrounding agencies to celebrate gospel with special guests and music renditions by The Voices of Victory of the WGMA on Monday the 16th, beginning at 11am. On Wednesday the 18th at 5:30pm, Andre Witcher will showcase Newark's talented youth (choirs, soloists, dancers) in a celebration of gospel music. Both programs will be taped for television broadcasting.

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