As a decade-long program of Branch Library renovation draws to a close, the Newark Public Library has begun to make plans for the renovation and expansion of the century-old Main Library building.

The Library has commissioned the Hillier Group, specialists in library reconstruction projects, to devise a master plan for combining restoration of the building’s historic fabric with necessary upgrades and a major addition that is needed to accommodate expanding services and collections.

The master plan outlines a three-phase project that can be carried out with minimal disruption of services. It presupposes that the renovation and expansion of the Library will serve as a catalyst for the redevelopment of the James Street Commons Historic District.

The first phase of the project, slated to begin in October, will include restoration of the Washington Street entrance, refurbishing of the lobby, and reconfiguration of the Circulation Services area.

The second phase will involve the restoration of Centennial Hall and the Fiction Room, and remodeling of the Auditorium.

The third phase will involve construction of a glass-enclosed addition that will afford users a panoramic view of the surrounding area. This building will accommodate open book stacks, public services, public seating, and appropriate space for programs and exhibitions. Phase Three involves the demolition and replacement of the existing stack building. The new stack building will hold compact shelving, which can accommodate many more volumes in limited space than conventional shelving. Once it is in place, special resources now stored at several sites can be reassembled under one roof, where they will be easily accessible to users.

We urge you to visit the Main Library during the months ahead and dare to dream with us as we put on a new face—one step at a time.
With the reopening of the Vailsburg Branch Library in May, the Newark Public Library achieved a long-standing goal: to have a state-of-the-art Branch Library in every ward of the city. Needless to say, we could not have reached this goal without support from the City of Newark amounting to more than $10,000,000 as well as generous grants from a number of organizations.

Now we are embarking upon the renovation and expansion of the Main Library—one of Newark’s most cherished public buildings. What we plan to do will not compromise its architectural integrity in any way. Rather, it will restore some of its lost luster and thus serve as a gateway to knowledge in the 21st century.

The first phase of the project, scheduled to begin in October, will involve restoration of the three-bay vestibule, creation of an open browsing area for video-recordings and CDs, and relocation of the Circulation Desk to a more accessible spot.

We are confident that after its restoration and expansion the Main Library will become an even more attractive destination for people throughout the area.

“We are confident that after its restoration and expansion the Main Library will become an even more attractive destination for people throughout the area.”

Alex Boyd

Board Secretary Profile

Dr. Gayle W. Griffin, Secretary of the Library’s Board of Trustees, has served on the Board since September 2000 as alternate to Marion A. Bolden, District Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools.

“I feel a special responsibility to the greater Newark community to ensure that its public library is the finest institution in the nation,” affirmed Dr. Griffin. She believes the Library should be dynamic and futuristic if it is to be effective. “As the community’s information needs change, the institution must change and adapt.”

Dr. Griffin joined the Newark Public Schools as Associate Superintendent of the Teaching and Learning Department in August 2000. She is responsible for the academic areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment for the content areas of Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, World Languages and Bilingual Programs, Health and Physical Education, Educational Media Services, Instructional Technology, and Early Childhood Education.

Before coming to Newark, her career included pioneering work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to improve science education in elementary schools. The Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association named her the Outstanding Science Principal of the Year in 1994. This June the Stevens Institute of Technology recognized her contributions to Science and Technology Education in the Newark Public Schools.

Dr. Griffin is a certified Critical Friends Group Facilitator and a member of the National School Reform Faculty, appointed by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University.

She is the author of numerous articles and appears in the Annenberg Institute’s leadership training videotapes for principals.

She received her B.A. degree from Chatham College and her M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1998 Chatham College inducted her into its Cornerstone Distinguished Alumnae.
In our continuing series of articles that highlights our Branch Libraries, we focus in this issue on Roseville and Vailsburg.

As with all Branches, these two offer Club Success homework-assistance, free Internet access, and have customized collections and services, making them cultural centers in the communities they serve. Included with a general description and staff listing at Roseville and Vailsburg, we noted recent developments of special interest to patrons.

Roseville Branch, 99 Fifth Street, (973) 733-7770, located on Fifth Street off Sussex Avenue

This Branch was the third in the NPL's system, opening in 1907. Over the next decade-plus, it experienced various changes, relocating in 1924 to its current location on Fifth Street.

Roseville offers services year-round to students from more than a dozen neighborhood schools, including E. Alma Flagg, Dr. William Horton, Sussex Avenue School, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Barringer High School, and St. Rose of Lima.

Of special note are the six new computers Roseville received from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant. (Each NPL facility received six computers, a laser printer, and software.) This enabled the creation of a computer lab at the rear of the first-floor stack area. Patrons heavily utilize these computers and are delighted with the specialty software available for adults and children.

The staff members—LuQueen Lee-Jackson, Branch Manager; Rashida Williams, Children’s Services Assistant; Wykia Chisolm, Library Assistant; Michael Robinson, Library Assistant; James Amos, security; Louis Harris, maintenance—are especially excited with the revitalization of their neighborhood, as exemplified by the residential housing under construction across the street. Roseville is looking forward to meeting the resultant growing demand for library services.

Vailsburg Branch, 75 Alexander Street, (973) 733-7755, located between S. Orange Avenue and Lindsay Avenue

This May the Vailsburg community celebrated the reopening of its rejuvenated Branch Library. Such notables as State Senator Ronald L. Rice, Councilwoman Mamie Bridgeforth and Library Trustee President Alberto Coutinho joined other dignitaries in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the front entrance of the “new” facility. The day’s events marked the completion of a system-wide initiative that began in 1989 and resulted in a renovated and expanded Branch Library in each of Newark’s five wards.

The Vailsburg staff is especially pleased to have such a modern, attractive facility for its patrons. Branch Manager Edward Small stated, “Now the residents of Vailsburg have a library that they can be proud of—one that will give them everything that they need.” Other staff members—Children’s Librarian Paul Volpe, Library Assistants Lamont Williams and Kimberly Bracker, and Part-time Assistant Al-Sawab Sawab—echoed Mr. Small’s comments, adding that the computers have been very popular, especially with the children.

Library Assistant Michael Robinson helps children in the new computer lab at the Roseville Branch.
Two new electronic resources are available for research and homework help: **CountryWatch** and **AP Multimedia Archive**. The Infolink Regional Library Cooperative provides the subscriptions.

**CountryWatch**
This resource presents historical overviews, news stories, statistics, and maps for each of the 192 countries of the world. In-depth political, economic, and environmental information is also available. Information may be located by using the drop down menu of countries, by a list of regions, or with an interactive map. Newark Public Library cardholders also have remote access to **CountryWatch**. Visit www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources and follow the link to “search CountryWatch from home or work.”

**AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive**
This collection of historical, political, cultural, and current events images will satisfy anyone looking for multimedia content for reports or presentations. Users may search by What, When, and Where. A search on “today” in the When field displays images from around the world, practically as events unfold. Searching for graphics locates charts and illustrations. Users can also search by concept, such as freedom. Detailed captions clearly identify all images and provide date, location, and more. Limiting to text locates news stories from the Associated Press news wire. Remote access is available. Visit www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources and follow the link to “AccuNet/AP Multimedia Archive.”

For more information or assistance, please call Arts & Humanities Reference at 973-733-7820.

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**ALA honors NPL**

The American Library Association bestowed two honors on the NPL during its annual conference, which was held in June in Toronto.

*The History Section of the Reference and User Services Association* presented the “Genealogical Publishing Company/History Section Award” to Charles F. Cummings, the Library’s Assistant Director for Statewide Outreach and Special Collections. The award recognized Cummings’ forty years of public service at the Library, his twenty years as an academic instructor, his twenty-plus years of service to the association’s history section, and his authorship of countless journal articles and newspaper columns.

The **Library Administration and Management Association** awarded our Greek exhibition brochure an honorable mention in its “Best of Show” for library public relations materials in the Diversity category. Credit goes to B & B Press Inc. (for printing), Linda Lobdell (for design), Angelique Lampros (for the text), Angelique Lampros and Peter Markos (for photo selection and arrangement), and to the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (for co-sponsorship).

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**One award recognized**

Cummings’ forty years of public service at the Library . . .
During the past few months, the Library offered diverse public programs, some of which are captured on this page. Be sure to make the Newark Public Library your first choice for first-rate free cultural programs. To find out more about what’s happening at your library, visit www.npl.org and click on Programs (for information about adult programs), or click on Kids’ Place (for children’s programs).

Library Director Dr. Alex Boyd, left, congratulates James Forrest Nance who was named Honorary Senior Library Director for 2003 for his zealous and unrelenting service to others.

As part of the “Cartoonists Across America & The World,” a program that promotes literacy and the arts, Phil Yeh joined a group of children in painting a mural. The program, held at the NPL, was in partnership with the Newark Literacy Campaign during Mr. Yeh’s “Winged Tiger World Tour.”

The NPL held a screening of The Puerto Rican Soldier, the first major documentary to chronicle the history of the all-Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment (four of the regiment’s members are pictured above) and its significant contribution during the Korean Conflict. Afterward, the audience viewed the exhibit of historical photographs of the 65th—the only Hispanic-segregated unit in U.S. military history.

Pictured with Library Director Dr. Alex Boyd are Corky, the Kids’ Place website mascot, and Ruppert, the Newark Bears’ mascot. The two mascots entertained children at the kickoff rally for this year’s Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge.

The first-place winners in each of the grade-level categories of the 2003 “Create-A-Book” challenge were patrons of the Van Buren Branch Library. Pictured with Susan Blake, the Van Buren Children’s Librarian, are Omisaylet Palomino (grades K-3), Naura Queiruga-Domínguez (4-8), and Janine Delaney (9-12).
Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Exhibition
Dominicans in New Jersey: A Community on the Move, co-curated by Maria Teresa Feliciano, Wendy Martinez and Charles F. Cummings
Second Floor
Through November 15

Programming

September

Thursday 18
Opening Reception for exhibition and programming. The evening’s keynote speaker is Dr. Daisy Cocco DeFilippis, Provost-Vice President, Office of Academic Affairs, Hostos Community College. The program includes entertainment and refreshments.

Centennial Hall; 6pm

Saturday 27
A colorful and vibrant presentation of a variety of traditional Dominican dances performed by Ballet Folklórico Dominicano de Nueva York.*

Centennial Hall; 2pm

October

Saturday 4
A dance program featuring KR3Ts (Keep Rising To The Top), a New York-based young, urban dance troupe that specializes in Hip-Hop, Reggae, Jazz, Salsa, Merengue and Mambo.*

Centennial Hall; 2pm

Thursday 9
The Association of Colombian Architects, N.Y./N.J. Chapter, presents a one-evening exhibit of 57 posters featuring the winning entries to the XVIII Colombian Architectural Biennial 2002. Includes reception and musical entertainment.

Centennial Hall; 6pm

* Photograph from the Dominicans in New Jersey exhibition

Programs are free (except for October 17 fundraiser) and open to the public. For more information, call the Sala Hispanoamericana at (973) 733-7772, or visit the Library's home page: www.npl.org.
Celebración de la Hispanidad

Friday
17
The María DeCastro Blake Community Service Awards Dinner, a fundraiser for the NJHRIC, honors María Vizcarrondo DeSoto, the late Julio Colón, and Jóse Rohaidy. Call the Library at (973) 733-7772 for ticket information.
Seabra’s Rodizio, 1034 McCarter Highway, Newark; 6:30pm

Saturday
18
A dance program that features Flamenco Latino!, a fiery music and dance troupe offering a well-choreographed, beautifully costumed show with a unique blend of Flamenco dance and Latin rhythms.*
Centennial Hall; 2pm

November

Saturday
1
A children’s program that features Juan Bobo and Pedro Animal, two incredibly charming folktale characters from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic who seem to do everything backwards.*
Auditorium; 2pm

Saturday
15
Take the opportunity to meet Sandra Guzmán, author of The Latina’s Bible: The Nueva Latina’s Guide to Love, Spirituality, Family, and LA Vida, at this book signing where she shares personal anecdotes and advice on a variety of topics.
Auditorium; 2pm

*These programs were made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.
A number of notables were on hand at the Vailsburg Branch Library reopening celebration; pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Library Trustee President Alberto Coutinho, Library Director Dr. Alex Boyd, Councilwoman Mamie Bridgeforth, State Senator Ronald L. Rice, Library Trustee Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, Library Trustee Treasurer Joseph Yeadon, Library Assistant Director Wilma Grey, and Vailsburg Branch Manager Edward Small.

**Vailsburg ribbon-cutting ceremony**

Capture here are some of the celebratory moments at the closing reception for Portugal to Newark: *The Rise of the Luso-American Community, 1920–1968*, the Library’s exhibition that featured the early days of Newark’s Portuguese-American community.

**Reception celebrates Library’s Portuguese exhibition**

Library Director Dr. Alex Boyd is pictured with exhibition co-curators Natalie Matinho, Dr. Linda Rodriguez, and Antonio Matinho.

The Portuguese Sport Club was recognized for its contribution of materials to the exhibition. Pictured with Assistant Director Charles F. Cummings (third from right) and Library Trustee President Alberto Coutinho (right) are members Carlos Nobre, Víctor Santos, Albano Ferrão, Jack Costa, Cummings, Joe Santos, and Coutinho.
Annual Fund is a Continuing Success

The Annual Fund for 2003 is enjoying a great deal of success. At this year’s midpoint, we had already raised more funds than in recent years. And, more important, more first-time donors are supporting the Library.

The reason for the increase in contributions is not simply the enhanced outreach to potential donors. We believe that people are responding in greater numbers and with larger gifts because of our new Bookmark Profile Series: an innovative reminder that the Library is more than a collection of books and resources. It is also a cadre of dedicated individuals working together to “enrich lives and expand horizons.”

We began the series this past spring with a profile of our Annual Fund Chair, Trustee Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez, and continued this summer with a profile of Dr. Tim Crist, President of the Friends of the Newark Public Library. This fall we will feature yet another of the many dynamic individuals who work to ensure the Library remains a vibrant center for lifelong learning.

Dollars raised through the Annual Fund Campaign are used to update our collections, increase our programs, and upgrade our technology. Make your gift today by using the enclosed envelope.

For more information regarding the Annual Fund, or to request a copy of our bookmark profiles, please contact Sue Mazzeo at 973-424-1832.

Exhibitions at the NPL

The two exhibitions on view at the Main Library through November 15 feature cultural diversity. Japanese Prints & Posters From the 20th Century is installed on the third-floor gallery; Dominicans in New Jersey: A Community on the Move is installed on the second floor.

The Japanese exhibition features ehon stencils and brilliant new graphic art works from Japan from 1900 to 2003. The Dominican show focuses on a growing segment of the Hispanic-American population.

Two other exhibitions are planned for display from November 20, 2003, through January 10, 2004:

- Great Posters: Art, War, Education, Ecology, and More (second-floor gallery)
- Historic Designs and Contemporary Book Illustration: A Treat for the Eyes (third-floor gallery)

For further information on Library exhibitions, visit www.npl.org and click on Programs & Exhibits.

Genpei by Hideo Takeda, 1999
Blue Box by Shigeki Kuroda
To enhance its services to the growing Hispanic population in New Jersey, the Library established in 2001 the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center (NJHRIC)—a repository for material related to Hispanics in New Jersey. Ingrid Betancourt, Coordinator of Multicultural Services and Collections at the Library, and Dr. Olga Jiménez-Wagenheim, Professor Emerita at Rutgers-Newark, have worked together to organize the NJHRIC.

A major resource of the NJHRIC is the Puerto Rican Community Archives—the first comprehensive resource registering the history, culture and contributions of a community that comprises half of the state’s 1.1 million Hispanics. As the first wave of Puerto Rican leadership ages, retires or moves away, valuable historical materials are being discarded, damaged, or lost. In establishing the Puerto Rican Community Archive, the NJHRIC hopes to prevent these historical documents from vanishing.

In 2002, the Library received funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission and from the Lucius and Eva Eastman Foundation to initiate a survey project to identify and inventory archival materials relating to the Puerto Rican community in Southern New Jersey. These materials will document this community’s contribution to the history and culture of the State of New Jersey.

March 2003 marked the end of the first phase of the survey project. It identified a wide range of items on the state’s politics, religion, agriculture, education, culture and more. Some date back to the 1920s.

The second and third phases will cover central and northern New Jersey, respectively.

When the survey is complete, the NJHRIC will have an inventory of statewide materials, as well as a searchable database—the first “map” of archival documents relating to the Puerto Rican experience in New Jersey.

On October 17, the Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center is presenting a special fundraiser: The María DeCastro Blake Community Service Awards Dinner. The 2003 honorees are Julio Colón, Founder, Puertorriqueños Asociados y Comunidad Organizados (PACO) (awarded posthumously); José Rohaidy, Journalist from El Diario-La Prensa; and María Vizcarrondo DeSoto, President and CEO of the United Way of Essex and West Hudson. The event will be held at Seabra’s Rodizio, 1034 McCarter Highway, Newark, beginning 6:30pm. Evening includes an historical journal, a silent auction, and dancing. All proceeds will go to support the development of the NJHRIC at the Newark Public Library. For ticket information call the Library at (973) 733-7772.
**Hooray for Children begins its 32nd year**

On October 25, the Library’s *Hooray for Children* series begins its *thirty-second* year of featuring quality live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians and theater groups. The year’s first event features “Taino’s Caribbean Carnival.”

“The programs are held on Saturdays to enable the entire family to attend,” explains Michele Cappetta, the Library’s Youth Services Coordinator. “And they begin promptly at two o’clock.” All are held at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street, and are free and open to the public.


For a calendar of NPL’s children’s programs, visit [KidsPlace.npl.org/calendar.html](http://KidsPlace.npl.org/calendar.html).

**F.E.W. Harper begins exciting, new season**

The *Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society* is dedicated to discussing books on the African Diaspora, thus “cultivating talents entrusted to our keeping,” explained Program Chair Dorothea Moore. The Society schedules meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June, except January. Meetings are held from 6:30pm to 8pm in the James Brown African-American Room, on the first floor of the Main Library. On special occasions, the Society hosts an event on a Saturday.

Works to be discussed in the remaining months of this year are:

- **September 17:** *Sankofa: Returning to the Door of No Return* (a 1993 film produced by Haile Gerima)
- **October 1:** *A Lawyer’s Life*, by Johnnie L. Cochran
- **November 5:** *Inside My Head*, by Reginald S. Lewis
- **December 3:** *You Know Better*, by Tina McElroy Ansa

For more information on the Society’s programs, call the James Brown African-American Room at (973) 733-5411 or visit [www.npl.org](http://www.npl.org) and select Programs & Exhibits.

**NPL participates in Foodtopia!**

The Newark Public Library was one of several Newark organizations that participated in the *Foodtopia!* festival in Military Park in June. Taking a moment to pose with Corky, our Kids’ Place website mascot, were Newark Police Officers David Paige, Susan Kirkland, Darryl Cheeks and Frank Walls. After the event, Sue Mazzeo, the Library’s Annual Fund Manager, presented raffle winner Milton Balkum, Jr., Director of Development for the United Way of Essex and West Hudson, with a gift basket.
Friends foster advocacy

Readers of *The Second Century* know about the many special events that the Friends of the Newark Public Library sponsor and about their financial support to the Library’s cultural and educational programs and collections. They may not, however, know that the Friends also serve as advocates for the Library, helping to secure adequate government funding to support our services and collections.

Timothy J. Crist, Ph.D., one of the founding members of the Friends, currently serves as president. Tim has always had a passion for libraries and books. He invites the community to join the Friends and affirm its support of the Newark Public Library.

A Book Sale “Thank You”

The Friends would like to thank the volunteers listed below, whose help made the 12th Annual Book Sale possible. (The list does not include the Friends’ Board Members or staff of the NPL.)

Christine Ashiara • Pius Ashiara
Francis Caprio • Louise Castranova
Doris Chamberlain • Hatheway Foote
Kay Geter • Filomena Gomes
Geraldine Harris • Michelle Hopkins
Carolyn Jairdullo • John Lipari
Antonio Medrano • Matt Mulligan
Darline Noble • Carmen Potenzone
Denise Potenzone • Marcia Reynolds
Josephine Santillo • Richard Simons

Allen Solomon • Victor Stolberg
Anthony Tronco • Mark Tronco

“In addition to the volunteers,” noted Jerry Caprio, the Book Sale Chair, “the Friends want to thank the customers for making the April event a record-breaking fundraiser.”

Jewel C. Zelder, 94

The Trustees and staff of the Library join the Friends in extending condolences to the family of Jewel C. Zelder, who died on July 17. Jewel was an officer and longtime member of the Friends and an eager advocate for the Library.

Miss Zelder was a Newark Museum retiree and volunteer, a member of the Zonta Club-Business Women of Newark, and of the Rosary Society of Good Counsel Church in Newark.