Dr. Alex Boyd To Retire After Sixteen Years As Director

The Newark Public Library is marking the end of an era as we bid farewell to our innovative Director, Dr. Alex Boyd. After sixteen years of being a visionary leader, Dr. Boyd will retire on December 31, 2004. The NPL’s ninth Director, he is perhaps best known for modernizing the purpose and service of New Jersey’s largest municipal public library. Perhaps not since John Cotton Dana, the NPL’s second and much-admired director, has anyone done as much to create a legacy of innovative leadership that will continue to enhance Newark’s diverse community for years to come.

The visionary changes that Dr. Boyd has implemented have mirrored that of the city of Newark—New Jersey itself—by shepherding in a “new renaissance” of improved and expanded library facilities, programs and services for the thousands of patrons that walk through our doors each week. Widely known for his warmth, enthusiasm, and take-charge attitude, Dr. Boyd has worked tirelessly to lead what was once a more traditionally oriented library into the modern age by:

- Instituting a strong fundraising and development program that has made it possible for the NPL to accommodate new technologies.
- Completely renovating or refurbishing all ten Branches, two floors of the Main Library, and commissioning a master plan for a major $70 million renovation and expansion of the Main Library.
- Making community outreach a priority.
- Expanding library programs with an impressive array of national and local talent.

Wilma J. Grey, Assistant Director for Community Library Services, has been named the Acting Director while the Library’s Board of Trustees conducts a nationwide search for a new director.

The Newark Public Library is hosting a Tribute Dinner to honor Dr. Boyd. The gala begins at 6:00 pm on November 10 at Nanina’s In The Park, located at Branch Brook Park. For more information on this tribute to the Library’s retiring legendary leader, please call Sue Mazzeo at (973) 424-1832.
It is with some sadness that I write my last Director’s Journal for The Second Century. After sixteen years at the helm of the Newark Public Library, I have decided to retire at the end of December. This has not been a decision that I have come to easily. Working at this library has been a labor of love—but it is now time to say farewell.

From the first day that I arrived from my former position in Chicago, I felt that my stay in Newark would be rewarding. I have not been disappointed. Not only have I been privileged to serve in one of the best library environments in the nation, with wonderful resources and talented staff, I have also found the City of Newark to be a warm and welcoming place to live and work.

In saying good-bye to my many friends and colleagues, I hope that I am remembered for having made a lasting contribution to the quality of library services offered to the communities we serve. I also hope that I have set the stage for a library that Newark can be proud of—throughout the second century of its existence.

Working at this library has been a labor of love—but it is now time to say farewell.

Board Member Profile

An advocate of the Library for more than a decade, Timothy J. Crist, Ph.D., took the oath of office as a Trustee of the Newark Public Library on January 20, 2004. Dr. Crist is a founding member and the past-president of the Friends of the Newark Public Library. Now that he is a Board member—serving on the Development Committee and the Budget & Finance Committee—he envisions this affording him a more hands-on opportunity to help shape the Library’s progress in the coming years.

Dr. Crist is Vice President of Prudential Investment Management. During his career at Prudential Financial, he has managed Prudential Financial’s Issues Management Division, provided staff support to Prudential Financial’s Chairman and Vice Chairman, been responsible for marketing investment products to institutions in Japan, Canada, and Australia, and handled relations with consultants to major pension plans in the United States. Before joining Prudential in 1979, he headed a bibliographical research project and was a visiting lecturer at Yale University.

Long active in the Newark community, Dr. Crist is a trustee of the Newark History Society, former president of the Newark Community School of the Arts, former member of the Newark Landmarks and Preservation Commission, and, he is the former chair of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

Dr. Crist earned a BA, magna cum laude, from Yale University, a Ph.D. in History from Cambridge University, and an MBA in Finance from New York University.
In early June, the Library began Phase I of our plan to renovate the Main Library. It entails restoration of the Washington Street entrance, refurbishing of the lobby, and reconfiguration of the Circulation Services area. Plans include a new Media Center with expanded collections of DVDs and CDs, a more accessible and attractive checkout/return desk, new computers and shelving for new books in the lobby, and restoration of the historically significant windows. In order to make room for this rejuvenation, the Technology Training Center has been closed and computer classes temporarily suspended. In addition, lending of videocassettes, DVDs and CDs has been suspended.

During renovation, the Main Library—as well as all ten branches—remains open and interruption of services is minimal.

“We apologize for any inconvenience caused by suspended or disrupted services,” explained Director Dr. Alex Boyd, “as we work toward building a better Main Library to serve our patrons in Newark and those throughout New Jersey.”

This renovation project is made possible by grants from the Prudential Foundation and the New Jersey State Library, with additional support from the City of Newark and the Victoria Foundation.

When Phase I is completed, we will begin Phase II: the restoration of Centennial Hall and the Fiction Room, and the remodeling of the Auditorium.

If you haven’t visited the Main Library in recent months, please do so soon. You’ll appreciate the phase we’re going through.
We are expanding the umbrella of topics covered in this column to include more than “dot-coms.” Articles will also comprise some of the NPL’s extensive print collections and e-resources.

If you ever tried a few websites or search engines for the state of the arts and didn’t get quite the results you needed, consider the vast resources of the Library. Here is just a small sampling of what you will find: values of works of art, art history and criticism, images and graphics, interior decoration and architecture designs, crafts, and antiques.

Scholars will not want to overlook reference sets such as Saur Allgemeines Künstlerlexikon and Benezit’s Dictionary of Artists. To supplement research about New Jersey artists, your Arts & Humanities Division librarians maintain special information files.

Along with thousands of books, you have access to a powerful assortment of electronic resources: Grove Art Online (a premier art encyclopedia), Art Index (a database of the most-important art journals), ArtPrice, Art Sales Index, Gordon’s Print Price Annual, and Davenport’s Art Reference and Price Guide (resources to locate auction records and price information).

From the NPL or a remote location, you can use the Library’s art webguide of carefully selected, reliable sites about antiques, collectibles, museums, fashion, photography, cartoons, and more. Simply visit www.npl.org/Pages/InternetResources/SubjectGuides/art.html for the full list of sources.

The Arts and Humanities librarians welcome your questions at (973) 733-7820 or reference@npl.org.

Exhibitions @ the NPL

Two exhibitions are now on view at the Main Library. The Newark Public Library Honors Lorenzo Homar (1913-2004) is in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. It is installed in the second-floor gallery through November 1. Architectural History in the Pre-Digital Age is the theme of the show that is in the third-floor gallery through October 27. It features notable architects (such as Gaudi, Gehry, Frank Lloyd Wright, Carl Larsson, and Jacques-Emile Ruhlmann) and buildings (in Berlin, Barcelona, Athens, St. Petersburg, Paris, and America) from previous times to the pre-digital era of contemporary concepts.

William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper, curated the two exhibitions. For further information, call Mr. Dane at (973) 733-7745, or visit the Library’s home page at www.npl.org.

Forthcoming exhibitions this year are Music History and Pop Stars in Posters (third-floor gallery, November 8 to December 31), and Historic Cemeteries of New Jersey (second-floor gallery, November 12 to December 31).
The last issue of The Second Century concluded the series of individual Branch Library profiles. Now we will turn over a new leaf and discuss what is happening system wide, as well as pointing out the events at a given location.

All NPL locations offer Club Success homework assistance, free Internet access, amenities such as computers and photocopiers, and customized collections and services that make them cultural anchors in the communities they serve. They hold outstanding system-wide programs, such as the recently concluded Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, and the Saturday Children’s Programs @ the Branches that is funded by a grant from the Newark Public Schools.

Individually, following is a sampling of events at three locations.

The Springfield Branch Library is again offering college preparatory classes—now through May 11, 2005. These free sessions comprise Preparation for SAT Tests, Financial Aid Workshops, College Essay Writing, and Scholarship Searches. Assistance is given for completing SAT, college, and scholarship applications. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, and on Saturdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The Community Foundation of New Jersey has provided funding for this valuable program.

The Van Buren Branch Library was host to an exhibition, entitled One Culture/Four Visions, which featured the selected works of four Portuguese artists: Ricardo Fonseca, Rosa Marques, Diogo Neto, and Paula Abrantes. The exhibition depicted the constant battle all immigrants fight for and the hardships they face.

Many of the First Avenue Branch Library patrons are in stitches—ever since the location started its knitting club. Informal sessions offer assistance to children and adults—as well as providing some of the supplies.
Exhibition
The Newark Public Library Honors Lorenzo Homar (1913-2004), curated by William J. Dane.
Second Floor
Through November 1

Signed poster by Lorenzo Homar to celebrate Puerto Rican history

Programming

September

Wednesday

22 New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center Latino Lecture Series
HEROES, LOVERS AND OTHERS: THE STORY OF LATINOS IN HOLLYWOOD
Do the names Margarita Cansino and Jo Raquel Tejada mean anything to you? Dr. Clara E. Rodriguez, professor of sociology at Fordham University in New York, chronicles the turbulent history of Hispanics in the American film industry. Lecture, slide presentation and book signing.
Auditorium; 6:00pm

October

Saturday

2 Andean Music and Dance
SUMAC PUNCHAU AND TAKY LLATQA
A dazzling performance of traditional music and dance of the Andes Mountains of Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia in authentic and colorful Inca attire.
Auditorium; 2:00pm

Saturday

30 Mexican Music
MARIACHI REAL DE MÉXICO
This Grammy-winning band brings Mexico to life in Newark. Mariachi Real de México, one of the most popular mariachi ensembles in the Metro Area, continues to preserve and perform the national music of Mexico, using the instruments, stylistic features and song repertoire drawn from several distinct musical regions.
Auditorium; 2:00pm

November

Saturday

6 Latina Comedy Troupe
SOUL LATINA
Linda Nieves-Powell, writer-director of the acclaimed, stereotype-shattering, off-Broadway show, Yo Soy Latina, has produced another hit—SOUL LATINA: A collection of comedic sketches and monologues on Latina life.
Auditorium; 2:00pm

Saturday

13 Colombian Traditional Music & Dance
GRUPO FOLKLÓRICO CAFÉ Y ORQUÍDEA
Colombia is renowned for its fragrant coffee and beautiful orchids. This dynamic group of young dancers is keeping the country’s folklore, culture and music vibrantly alive in New Jersey. 25 performers in traditional costumes take the audience on a musical journey through various parts of Colombia.
Auditorium; 2:00pm

This celebration is 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.
Exposición

La Biblioteca Pública de Newark le rinde homenaje a Lorenzo Homar (1913-2004), curada por William J. Dane.

Segundo Piso
Hasta el 1 de noviembre

Programas

Septiembre

miércoles

22 Serie de Conferencias Latinas del NJHRIC
HEROES, LOVERS AND OTHERS: THE STORY OF LATINOS IN HOLLYWOOD
¿Conoces los nombres Margarita Cansino o Jo Raquel Tejada? La doctora Clara E. Rodríguez, profesora de sociología en la Universidad de Fordham en New York, hace un recuento de la turbulenta historia de los hispanos en la industria del cine americano. Conferencia ilustrada con diapositivas y libros a la venta.

6:00 p.m. – Auditorio

Octubre

sábado

2 Música y Baile Andino
SUMAC PUNCHAU y TAKY LLATA
Una presentación de música y bailes tradicionales de las montañas de los Andes del Perú, Ecuador y Bolivia, con la colorida vestimenta auténtica de los Incas.

2:00 p.m. – Auditorio

sábado

30 Música Mejicana
MARIACHI REAL DE MÉXICO
Este grupo, ganador de premios Emmy, trae un pedazo de México a Newark. Mariachi Real de México, uno de los conjuntos de mariachi más populares del área metropolitana de New York, preserva y presenta la música nacional de México, usando instrumentos, estilos y repertorios de canciones de varias regiones de México.

2:00 p.m. – Auditorio

Noviembre

sábado

6 Grupo de Comedia Latina
SOUL LATINA
Linda Nieves-Powell, autora-directora de Yo Soy Latina, el aclamado espectáculo de Off-Broadway que rompió los estereotipos de las Latinas en los EE.UU., ha producido otro éxito — SOUL LATINA: 60-75 divertidos minutos de comedia y monólogos sobre la vida de la mujer latina.

2:00 p.m. – Auditorio

sábado

13 Música & Baile Tradicional Colombiano
GRUPO FOLKLÓRICO CAFÉ Y ORQUÍDEA
Colombia es conocida por su aromático café y sus bellas orquídeas. Este dinámico grupo de jóvenes bailarines mantiene vivo el folclor, la cultura y la música colombiana en New Jersey. 25 artistas en trajes típicos llevan al público en un recorrido musical por las diversas regiones de Colombia.

2:00 p.m. – Auditorio

Exposición

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Segundo Piso
Hasta el 1 de noviembre

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2:00 p.m. – Auditorio

Esta program recibe parte de sus fondos del Consejo para las Artes del Estado de New Jersey / Departamento del Estado, una Agencia Asociada a la Fundación Nacional para las Artes (NEA por sus siglas en inglés), y administra por la División de Asuntos Culturales e Históricos del Condado de Essex.
A
diverse group of programs
and an exhibition tribute to
Lorenzo Homar comprise this
year’s Hispanic Heritage Month
celebration. Programs cover Andean
music and dance, Mexican music, a
Latina comedy troupe, Colombian
traditional music and dance, and a
look at Latino “heroes, lovers and
others” in Hollywood. Individual
programs are detailed on pages 6
and 7 of this newsletter.

The subject of the exhibition,
entitled The Newark Public Library
Honors Lorenzo Homar (1913–2004),
is the life and art career of Lorenzo
Homar, who died in Puerta Tierra,
Puerto Rico, on February 16, 2004.
The San Juan Star
described him as
“the grandfather of Puerto Rican art,
Puerto Rico’s greatest artist, and a
Puerto Rican national treasure.”

Nearly forty original prints and
signed posters—as well as closely
related biographic material—are on
view in the second-floor gallery
through November 1. Some works have
never before been on view at the Library.
William J. Dane, Keeper of Prints,
Posters, and Works on Paper, curated
the exhibition. For questions about
the exhibition, please call Mr. Dane at
(973) 733-7745.

The Library’s celebration was funded in part
by a grant 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.

The Ruth A. Joseph Collection

What began as a childhood
introduction to the English
classics by her father, Ruth
Joseph developed a lifelong love of
books of every description. A New
York City native, of parents who had
emigrated from Barbados, West Indies,
she has lived in New Jersey for more
than a decade.

As the years progressed, her book
collection grew. And grew.

Recently Ms. Joseph decided to
share her collection with her neigh-
bors. She remembered fondly her
childhood visits to her local library.
Since the NPL was now her “local
library,” and was a place where her
books could reach a great diversity
of people, she selected our institution
to be the recipient of her gift.

The Ruth A. Joseph Collection,
which comprises hundreds of volumes,
is now housed in the Main Library’s
James Brown African-American Room;
the children’s books are part of the
collection in the Children’s Room.
Except for titles that may be used only
for reference at the Main Library, the
books are available for circulation.

To celebrate the addition of this
fine collection, the Library is planning
a fall reception. For details, please visit
the James Brown African-American
Room or call (973) 733-5411.
Double Your Support to Annual Fund Through ICF Challenge

By making your gift today to the Library’s 2004 Annual Fund Campaign, the Independence Community Foundation will match your gift—dollar for dollar!—up to a total of $25,000. This is your opportunity to show your support of the Newark Public Library and have it count twice.

The Fund ensures the Library will continue enriching lives and expanding horizons by remaining an essential center for life-long learning . . . providing vital and vibrant collections, programs, and services to those we serve—free of charge!

The Library is more than half way to meeting this important Challenge but needs your support to reach our goal. Only a few months remain. Please send your gift—today—in the enclosed envelope. Thank you.

For further information regarding the 2004 Annual Fund Campaign or the Independence Challenge, please contact Sue Mazzeo, Annual Fund Manager, at (973) 424-1832.

Golf Tournament Is A Big Hit

The Library’s “Book Classic” Golf Tournament in mid-July was a huge success. Golfers enjoyed a fantastic day at the spectacular Plainfield Country Club in Edison—one of New Jersey’s top private clubs. The event raised more than $10,000 (in sponsorships and contributions) in support of the 2004 Annual Fund.

The NPL thanks those who helped to make the event an overwhelming success—especially Dan Regan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel at O’Gorman & Young, and Arthur Stern, CEO at Cogswell Realty Group.

The 2005 “Book Classic” will again be held at the Plainfield Country Club. Because of the popularity of the event and the limited number of foursomes permitted, it is not too early to sign up for next year’s event—now. For further details, please call Sue Mazzeo at (973) 424-1832.
The NPL celebrated National Library Week by holding the ever-popular “Create-A-Book Challenge.” Pictured are two of the first-place winners in the three grade-level categories: Brianna Martins (K to 3) and Latasha Delaney (9 to 12). Absent from photo was Stephen Freitas, who took first place in grades 4 to 8.

The Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration (PRFAA) donated $1,000 to the Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center. From left are Casto Maldonado, Director, FOCUS; Mari Carmen Aponte, Executive Director, PRFAA-Washington Headquarters; Dr. Olga Jiménez-Wagenheim, Chair, NJHRIC Organizing Committee; and Gloria Soto, Director, PRFAA-New Jersey Region.

Newark native James A. Drake, Jr., (seated), selected as the Honorary Senior Library Director for 2004, is pictured with Lola Caldwell, Secretary to the NPL’s Director; Wilma J. Grey, NPL Acting Director; and Margaret George, Event Coordinator.

Sharpe James, Mayor, City of Newark
Donald Bradley, South Ward, City Council President
Newark Municipal Council
Augusto Amador, East Ward
Charles Bell, Central Ward
Mamie Bridgeforth, West Ward
Hector Corchado, North Ward
Gayle H. Chaneyfield-Jenkins, At-Large
Luís A. Quintana, At-Large
Donald Tucker, At-Large
Bessie Walker, At-Large

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Hooray for Children and F.E.W. Harper plan new seasons

Two of the Main Library’s ever-popular program series have made exciting plans for their 2004-05 season. Following are the events scheduled for the balance of 2004. All of them are free and open to the public.

The F.E.W. Harper Literary Society, which is dedicated to discussing books on the African Diaspora, presents its programs in the first-floor James Brown African-American Room. All programs are held on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6:30pm. The October 6 program is a discussion of Walter Mosely’s White Butterfly. The November 3 and December 1 programs, respectively, will be discussions of Tyrone Powell’s Eyes to My Soul: The Rise or Decline of a Black FBI Agent and Debra J. Dickerson’s The End of Blackness.

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

Hooray for Children is in its 33rd year of presenting quality live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians, and theater groups. The programs are held on Saturdays, and the entire family is invited for a fun-filled afternoon. This year’s first program features Craig Babcock and Richard Stillman in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. It will be held on October 23, beginning at 2:00pm, in the Auditorium. The series continues with TAINO’s Sana and Papo Nickel as they present The Rain Forest on November 20, and with Winter Wonderland, featuring Flying Ship Productions, on December 4.

For a calendar of the Library’s children’s programs visit kidsplace.npl.org/calendar.html.
Dr. E. Alma Flagg to present Dana Lecture

The Friends of the Newark Public Library will sponsor its 2004 John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecture on Wednesday, October 20. This year’s presenter is Dr. E. Alma Flagg, a lifelong resident of Newark, esteemed educator, civic leader and poet. The lecture is named for John Cotton Dana, nationally recognized leader in library science and community affairs, who was the NPL’s Director from 1901 until his death in 1929. This prestigious award is bestowed on Newarkers who have distinguished themselves in the State or the nation.

“Dr. Alma Flagg has cultivated learning in so many children of Newark and has inspired the love of teaching in so many educators that we believe it is only fitting we recognize her accomplishments by asking her to share these experiences with our community,” said Patricia Bender, President of the Friends.

Dr. Flagg began her career as a classroom teacher in the Newark Public Schools. She was the first African-American principal to head a racially integrated school in the Newark school system.

The Dana Lecture is being held at the Newark Museum due to renovations at the Main Library. Lecture Chairperson Rebecca Doggett noted that the Museum is the ideal choice, since John Cotton Dana started the Newark Museum Association in 1909, and it occupied the third and fourth floors of the Library until moving to its own building in 1926.

The donation for tickets is $20. For students and seniors, tickets are $5. For more information, please email the Friends at friends@npl.org, visit the website friends.npl.org, or call Heidi Cramer at the Library: (973) 733-7837.

Book Sale is a big success

The Friends’ 13th Annual Book Sale was another huge success. Funds raised are dedicated to its “One Hundred Books A Branch” initiative to purchase 100 new children’s books for each of the 10 Branches and for the Main Library. Additionally, the organization is gathering books for a library in Ghana and for a shipment of paperbacks to our armed forces overseas.

Volunteers played a key role in this year’s sale. Nearly 30 individuals gave tirelessly of their time, including two longtime supporters of the Friends: Josephine Santillo and Pius Ashiara.

Mark your calendars for April 28-30, 2005. That’s when the Friends’ 14th Annual Book Sale will be held.