The Gertrude Fine Prints Endowment Fund

It is a special person who gives from the heart so that others may benefit. This generosity has come forth from an NPL employee of more than 55 years: William J. Dane, Supervising Librarian and Keeper of Prints, Posters and Works of Art on Paper. With his $20,000 contribution, Mr. Dane has established an endowment (in his Mother’s name) for the maintenance and expansion of the Library’s renowned Fine Print Collection ... so that all patrons may enjoy our remarkable works of art.

“In addition to Mr. Dane’s years of tireless and impeccable service,” explained Wilma J. Grey, Acting Director, “this gift demonstrates the level of his dedication to the Library and gives us all great pride.”

Mr. Dane maintains the Library’s collections of special visual materials: fine prints and photographs, posters, historic greeting cards, bookplates, autographs, postcards, sheet music, shopping bags and artists’ books. He has curated hundreds of exhibitions at the Library. In 1997 he was honored at a Library gala, and then-Director Dr. Alex Boyd renamed the 22,000 works in our fine print collection the William J. Dane Fine Print Collection.

Mr. Dane has also received special recognition by the Art Libraries Society of North America and more recently, the Victorian Society in America presented him with the President’s Award.

The interest generated by the Gertrude Fund will be used for the express purpose of acquiring original prints for the Library’s collections.

In recognition of this Fund, the Dodge Foundation gave $10,000 for new acquisitions selected in 2005 by Mr. Dane. The Friends of the Newark Public Library have pledged their financial support to the endowment. Those wishing to show their support may call Susan Mazzeo, Annual Fund Manager, at (973) 424-1832.
Change and renewal—these are the watchwords in the world of libraries today. Even in the midst of quickly developing technology and huge digitization projects—perhaps even because of these things—libraries are being revitalized in ways not seen in a long time. Although some libraries are in decline, recent studies show that most of the nation’s 16,000-plus libraries are thriving. In newly constructed and expanded libraries, circulation and attendance figures are skyrocketing.

That same kind of energy is becoming more evident here at the Newark Public Library where we are nearing the completion of Phase I of the Main Library Renovation Project.

Soon the front doors of our Main Library will reopen to an attractive, enlarged entrance area and a lobby with an elegant new look. Adjacent to the lobby will be a media center prominently featuring our full range of videotapes, CDs and new stock of DVDs—with ample room to browse these collections.

On the third floor, an expanded technology center is being created. The major public computer activities will be brought together in one large space, primarily for ease of access. There will be an expanded Internet section, workstations for word processing and email, and a large room for computer classes.

Ease of access is also behind a plan to consolidate the Business, Science and Technology Reference Desk with the Arts and Humanities Reference Desk on the second floor. We expect this project to be completed by August.

I hope that you will enjoy exploring these redesigned and revitalized new spaces and services and will use them often.

Wilma J. Grey, Acting Director

The Newark Public Library recently received a gift of approximately 500 books from Frank J. Prial, a resident of West Orange. Mr. Prial is a reporter, foreign correspondent and wine columnist. Since joining The New York Times in 1970, he has reported for the paper from 30 countries. He has covered stories in every country in Western Europe, in the Middle East, in Pakistan, Egypt, South Africa, Chile and Argentina, to cite a few of his datelines. In 1979, he was named a Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor.

Over the years, he has contributed to wine publications locally and abroad, conducted a radio program on wine notes, and appeared on the Food Television Network.

Mr. Prial has written two books based on his wine columns. The first, entitled Wine Talk, as is his weekly column, was published in 1978. The second, Decantations, was published in 2002. He is also the author of a large-format compendium, entitled The Companion to Wine.

His wine writing has been, in effect, a parallel career to his straight news reporting.

The majority of the book donation is on his subject of expertise: wine. These volumes will augment substantially the library’s holdings in the field of oenology. Many are large, handsomely illustrated books that will attract numerous patrons’ interest. The gift also includes works on history, politics, travel, and literature.

We are grateful to Mr. Prial, an accomplished journalist and wine expert, for his generous gift.

Frank J. Prial
Generosity of Many = Banner Year

The Library’s 2004 Annual Fund Campaign experienced a banner year—we raised more than $150,000—thanks to the generous support of many thoughtful individuals and corporations. We were also the recipient of a special matching-gift challenge grant from Independence Community Foundation. While Annual Fund gifts are unrestricted, the $25,000 match received from The Independence Challenge will be used to purchase books and materials for children and seniors.

In an effort to continue this momentum into 2005, we have set the dates for two Annual Fund events:

- “Book Classic” Golf Tournament: Tuesday, July 12
- “Booked for the Evening” Gala Dinner: Thursday, November 10

To demonstrate your immediate support, we ask that you make your Annual Fund contribution today by enclosing your gift in the attached envelope. It will go far in ensuring the Library remains a vibrant center for lifelong learning and a vital repository of information. Please make checks payable to The Newark Public Library. All gifts are greatly appreciated!

On hand for the presentation of the $25,000 check from the Independence Community Foundation at the “Spring Salute” ceremony were Donald M. Karp, Vice Chairman of Independence Community Bank and a member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors; Alberto Coutinho, Library Trustee; Wilma J. Grey, Acting Library Director; Marilyn Gelber, Executive Director of the Independence Community Foundation; Stuart Post, Program Officer of the Independence Community Foundation; Dr. Clement Alexander Price, Library Trustee.

Save-the-Date for The Newark Public Library’s 2005 Gala Dinner

“Booked for the Evening”

Thursday, November 10, 2005
Nanina’s in the Park
Belleville, New Jersey

Cocktail Reception at 6:00pm
Awards & Dinner at 7:00pm
For further information, please contact Sue Mazzeo at 973-424-1832.

For more information on this reservations-only fund-raiser, call Sue Mazzeo at 973-424-1832.
A new online acquisition of the Newark Public Library, *The New York Times* (1851-2001), is a unique primary source. Our nation’s “paper of record,” the *Times* provides, not only information, but also a narrative of 150 years of opinions, biases, and trends. People looking for information of all kinds (events, reviews of artistic creations, stock quotes, marriage announcements, obituaries, etc.) regularly turn to newspapers for satisfaction. A particularly eager audience for this new resource will be students: educators are now asking even younger students to use primary documents, and this source retrieves and displays digitized articles, illustrations, speeches, advertisements, editorial cartoons, letters, and more.

Partial funding for this resource was provided by a grant from the New Jersey State Library.

The NPL maintains a complete microfilm collection of *The New York Times*—as well as printed indexes to the newspaper—but the online product allows searching and delivery, which are notably superior to what is possible with the older formats. Whereas other indexes often require a significant commitment of time, patience, and ingenuity, the powerful indexing of this electronic resource speeds precise discovery of needed material. And the online resource delivers every page of every issue from cover to cover, with full-page and article images.

Accessing it is simple. From any NPL facility, go to the Library’s home page (www.npl.org), click on Internet & Electronic Resources, scroll down near the bottom of the page and select *The New York Times* (1851-2001).

Results can be printed, saved, or emailed.

For more information on this resource call Arts & Humanities Reference at (973) 733-7820.

**Exhibitions @ the NPL**

Two exhibitions are now on view at the Main Library: *Newarks of the World* and *The End of World War II*. Installed on the second-floor gallery from June 11 through July 15, *Newarks of the World* was curated by Charles F. Cummings, the Library’s Assistant Director for Statewide Outreach and Special Collections. The exhibition is in honor of the “Newarks of the World Reunion”—a gathering of delegates from many of the Newarks worldwide that returns to New Jersey for the first time since 1989. On view on the third-floor gallery through July 23 is *The End of World War II*. William J. Dane, Keeper of Prints and Posters and Works of Art on Paper and a combat veteran in the European Theater of Operations from 1943-1946, curated this show that includes more than 50 war posters, as well as historic photographs, biographic data, essential books, newspaper headlines, plus “Four Freedoms” that was created in illustrations by Norman Rockwell. For more information on the respective exhibitions, call Mr. Cummings at (973) 733-4870 or Mr. Dane at (973) 733-7745.

The next exhibitions will be *Divas of the Silver Screen* (July 25 to September 3) and *New Visual Treasures* (August 1 to October 15).
After a whirlwind of activity system wide—brought about by special events and the numerous children’s programs that were funded by a grant from the Newark Public Schools—all Children’s Rooms are now gearing up for the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge and other Summer Fun activities.

“Since the Challenge began,” said Michele Cappetta, Youth Services Coordinator, “children have read over 120,000 books during the summer.”

The theme for this year’s challenge is *Dragons, Dreams & Daring Deeds*. The program will run from June 27 to August 6. An awards ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 20. The Prudential Foundation again has provided the funding to sponsor this premier reading and literacy program for Newark’s school children in grades pre-K through 8 ... a program that encourages them to include the adventure of reading in their summer activities.

A festive rally will kickoff the Challenge. It will be held in Washington Park on Thursday, June 30, from 10:00am to Noon. This fun event includes entertainment by Lou Del Bianco—who will present “Around the World Stories”—refreshments and a free gift. Corky, the Library’s Kids’ Place mascot, will also greet the children.

In addition to the Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge, the Library has planned a host of Summer Fun programs in all of the Children’s Rooms: board and computer games, puzzles, movies, arts and crafts, and story time. Activities differ at each Branch. For more information and a schedule, visit kidsplace.npl.org or stop by any of the Children’s Rooms.

Author-Illustrator and Caldecott Medal-winner Eric Rohmann held a book reading and egg coloring celebration at North End Branch Library. The event marked the 125th anniversary of the PAAS egg dye company that was started in Newark.
April was an eventful month at the Library. In addition to other fine cultural programs, two events featured author lectures and book signings.

Dr. Ernestine Schlant Bradley, college professor and wife of former senator and presidential hopeful Bill Bradley, discussed her moving and candid memoir, *The Way Home: A German Childhood, an American Life*. In her memoir, she offers a vivid picture of ordinary German life during the Nazi period and just after World War II.

Dwayne Ashley, president and CEO of Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund and a member of the Library’s Board of Trustees, is the coauthor of *I’ll Find a Way or Make One: A Tribute to Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. The book is a definitive resource that explores the historical, social and cultural importance of America’s 107 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Both authors presented remarks about their books to the appreciations of their interested audiences. Lively question-and-answer sessions followed.

Among the guests attending Dwayne Ashley’s program were Alberto Coutinho, Library Trustee; (Mr. Ashley); Wilma J. Grey, Acting Library Director; Trish Morris-Yamba, President of the Library’s Board of Trustees.

Enjoying a moment during Dr. Bradley’s program were Senator Bill Bradley; William J. Dane, the Library’s Keeper of Prints and Posters; and Trish Morris-Yamba, President of the Library’s Board of Trustees.

Dr. Ernestine Schlant Bradley,(seated), presents a signed copy of her book to Acting Library Director Wilma J. Grey.

Gus Heningburg, notable Newarker and nationally known community affairs advocate, (standing), converses with Dwayne Ashley during the book signing.
**ESOL Program: A Success on All Levels**

The Library receives a variety of grants each year that enable us to provide valuable services, add to our collections and present free public programs. One that impacts directly on a linguistically diverse group of patrons is the **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** project that has been funded for several years through a grant from the New Jersey State Library.

Classes are held in the spring, fall, and winter at the Main Library and four Branches: Branch Brook, First Avenue, North End and Van Buren. Several hundred “students” attend conversation roundtables, receiving help in breaking down the language barriers they face each day. They have come from all over the world—Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, India, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the United States, among other countries—to learn English or sharpen their English-speaking skills.

Even though several have taken English-speaking classes elsewhere, the Library’s program affords them one additional benefit: it’s free!

Here are just a few of the varied remarks the NPL has received from those attending ESOL classes.

- One participant, who attends Essex County College, now feels more comfortable around other students who don’t speak Spanish.
- The program “gives me the additional benefit: it’s free!”
- Another stated the ability to learn “grammar, conversation and writing.”

Not only has the ESOL program helped people to learn English, it has helped bring many new patrons into the NPL. As explained by Juanita Egoavil, Branch Manager at First Avenue, “They practice what they learn by taking out English-language books, in addition to those in Spanish.”

To learn more about the ESOL program, call Margaret George, Project Manager, at the Main Library at (973) 733-5412, or visit any of the five locations holding classes.

**Cuban history in New Jersey**

The Sala Hispanoamericana received a donation of 15 professionally bound volumes of *La Tribuna de NJ* newspapers, covering 1990 to 2004. *La Tribuna* is the oldest Spanish-language newspaper published in New Jersey and was started by the Cuban community. The collection will be valuable to anyone researching the history of the Cuban community in New Jersey—and of Hispanics in general—for that 15-year period. The NPL also has microfiche holdings for 1979-1987.

**Legally speaking . . .**

The NPL has received a generous donation of 50 reels of microfilm of *The New Jersey Law Journal* for the years 1992 through 2004. This brings the Library’s holdings up-to-date. *The New Jersey Law Journal*, a statewide legal authority since 1878, continues to be published in downtown Newark. It is an important resource for all users—especially researchers and scholars.
Friends build on Book Sale success

After another successful Friends of the Newark Public Library Book Sale—which raised over $7,000—Jerry Caprio, Book Sale Chair, says he’s looking forward to next year’s sale, “which will be our 15th sale and bigger and better than ever.”

This year’s sale broke many records, including:

- Over 30 dedicated volunteers worked at this community event.
- “Disposal Day” (Monday after the sale) had the biggest turnout and the most books ever selected. Among the organizations taking free materials for their members were Tully House II, a halfway house for adult offenders; Toler House, another halfway house.

- Largest single donation: 1,500 books from the Halpern Family in East Orange.

The Friends are now turning their attention to projects involving Special Collections. One initiative will be to fund the refurbishment of some of the existing exhibition display cases. Another ambitious plan will be Your Name in Lights, an effort to raise funds to replace current exhibition lighting.

To learn more about these worthwhile endeavors, email the Friends at friends@npl.org, visit the website friends.npl.org, or call Heidi Cramer at (973) 733-7837.

Notables honored @ book signing

Barbara J. Kukla, former Newark Star-Ledger editor and John Cotton Dana lecturer, will hold a book signing at the NPL on Wednesday, July 13, at 6pm in Centennial Hall. Her new book, Defying the Odds: Triumphant Black Women of Newark, details the lives of African-American women from Newark who have led remarkable lives. Two who are profiled—Dr. E. Alma Flagg and Marion Bolden—will be guests of honor at the event.

More information about the program call Heidi Cramer at 973-733-7837.